Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-084
Thursday
30 April 1992

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Afghanistan

Mojahedin forces under Jam'iyat-e Eslami commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud captured the Interior Ministry, which had been under the control of Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami troops, IRNA reported. Mas'ud, who has been nominated for defense minister in the mojahedin coalition council, met with interim President Sebghatollah Mojaddedi on 30 April, Kabul radio noted.

Saudi Arabia

The Kingdom announced its "full support" for the new Afghan government led by Sebghatollah Mojaddedi and its recognition of it as the "legitimate government of Afghanistan," Riyadh television stated, quoting a "responsible source" cited by SPA.

Sudan

Five planes loaded with Iranian weapons recently landed at Khartoum airport, Cairo AL-WAFD disclosed. The airlift was arranged by the two governments to compensate the Islamic Front's heavy losses in fighting in the south, according to the paper. Meanwhile, Sudanese opposition sources in Cairo said plans for an "all-out" military campaign to topple the al-Bashir government are under way, and that it will be launched from an African country adjacent to Sudan, the paper reported separately.

Libya

In an interview with the Budapest magazine REFORM, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said he has read a report on an investigation of the Lockerbie bombing which "completely exonerates our country," and has sent a copy to President Bush. Al-Qadhdhafi said he has not yet received a reply from the President. He also declared that "as long as I live, Libya will not build a nuclear bomb."

Palestinian Affairs

Israeli authorities have rejected a Palestinian request to set up a radio station in the occupied territories, Jerusalem AL-NAHAR disclosed. Last month authorities turned down a request for a Palestinian television station, the paper noted.

Iraq

Baghdad press and radio carried the greetings of top-ranking Revolution Command Council and state officials, including the prime minister, vice president, defense minister, and interior minister, to Saddam Husayn on his birthday, which was on 28 April.

Algeria

The Supreme Court upheld a lower court decision to ban the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and rejected the FIS appeal to overrule the party's dissolution, Algiers radio reported.

Western Sahara

The Polisario called for UN forces to deploy on the norther borders with Morocco to prevent Rabat from sending "large numbers" of Moroccan citizens into Western Sahara, Algiers radio reported.

Arab-Israeli Talks

No Progress 'Despite' Israeli Reports to Contrary

JN3004071192 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Muhammad al-Sharif dispatch from Washington]

[Text] The most significant activity in Washington during the past few hours was the four-party Arab meeting which was held at the Syrian delegation's place of residence. It was attended by the Jordanian, Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese delegations and continued until 0500 today, Jordan time. The conferees assessed the four-track Arab-Israeli talks and discussed the concluding date of the current negotiations. The Arab side insists on rejecting the Israeli request to end the talks today, Thursday, and stresses the need to continue these talks until 5 May as was previously scheduled.

The statements made at the end of this meeting indicated that so far no progress has been made in all tracks of the negotiations despite the Israeli media reports on the achievement of progress—reports disseminated for reasons related to the upcoming Israeli elections. Each Arab delegation held one session of talks with the Israeli side yesterday to continue discussion of the presented topics.

The Jordanian-Israeli session of talks continued until 0200 today, Jordan time, 1900 Washington time. Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation, spoke to reporters following this session. He said:

[Begin al-Majali recording] We proposed an agenda to the Israeli side in the hope that it would become a joint agenda if approved by them. We also explained all clauses of the agenda and the reasons for formulating it in such a manner. The agenda was discussed in detail and some questions were asked about some of the points we presented. It was found that there were some common denominators in both our and their agendas. We decided to continue this discussion tomorrow. In the meantime, the brother members of the delegation also discussed with the other side all aspects of the issue of water. [end recording]

The Jordanian delegation had previously met with Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, and reviewed with him what had thus far been achieved in the negotiations. Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali also received the European Troika representatives in Washington. A review of the European role in the peace process, especially in the upcoming multilateral talks, took place during the meeting.

Joint Delegation Rejects Contacts Between Rounds

JN2904200892 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1920 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Murid Hammad dispatch from Washington]

[Excerpt] The Middle East peace talks resumed in Washington this morning. The Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli delegations walked into the U.S. State Department for a general meeting of the two tracks to discuss procedural issues, particularly further meetings.

The Israelis, saying they want to end on Thursday, have asked that another round be held in late May or early June. The joint delegation rejected the idea and another one calling for contacts between rounds.

[Begin recording 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of Jordanian delegation to the peace talks] They have put forward suggestions of having a contact between rounds and requesting a meeting in the next venue, which is going to be Rome. The Jordanian and the Palestinian response was that taking the general tone of the beginning of this round, which showed some hope, we thought that this should continue until next week. So we requested that we better continue with the round until next week. And if this round will be evaluated in a positive way, then the question of a second round in the new venue will be considered favorably.

They have asked for this and our response. As far as we going to be in Rome and our sequence is going to be almost continuous, [as heard] we did not find the urge of having a contact outside the rounds themselves. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Syrian Chief Delegate Comments After Session

JN2904205292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Washington—During today's session of talks, which is part of the fifth round of the Middle East peace talks, the Syrian Arab delegation affirmed that Israel's history is replete with malice, rancor, and anti-Arab aggressiveness.

The delegation refuted the allegations and fabrications voiced by the Israeli side to prove that Israel has not been the aggressor throughout the Arab-Israeli conflict, but rather the party aggressed upon.

The Syrian delegation refuted these allegations by citing past and present evidence, including statements made a few days ago by Binyamin Netanyahu, adviser to Israeli prime minister, which exude rancor and hatred for Syria in particular and the Arabs and Muslims in general, as he called for attacking Syria and accused it of numerous charges.

Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation, affirmed at the end of today's meeting that the Israeli delegation is attempting to waste time by focusing on

these charges and allegations instead of showing a willingness to discuss the practical steps and moves required for implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. This, he said, shows a lack of a true and sincere desire on its part to achieve peace.

Syria's al-'Allaf Briefs Djerejian on 5th Round

JN3004065592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for near eastern affairs, received Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, yesterday. The meeting was attended by Syrian Ambassador in Washington Walid al-Mu'allim and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus Christopher Ross. Al-'Allaf reviewed, during the meeting, what took place during the fifth round of these talks which began on 27 April, and which will end today. He also reviewed Israel's attempts to depart from the essence of the talks.

Djerejian reiterated the continued commitment of U.S. President George Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker that the United States will play its role as a catalyst to achieve a just and comprehensive peace on all fronts in the Middle East.

Syrian Delegate—Israel 'Not Serious' About Peace

JN2904165192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1520 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Washington—The meetings of the third day—before the last day—of the fifth round of Middle East peace talks were held at the U.S. State Department today. The Israeli side insisted on limiting this round to four days for considerations that are not related to the progress this round of talks might contribute to peace. [passage omitted]

Replying to a journalist's question prior to today's meeting on whether the Syrian delegation is ready to go to Rome after two or more weeks in concurrence with the Israeli side's request, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian Arab delegation, said: Why do we come to Washington to hold three or four meetings then rush to Rome after two weeks? Why do we not stay here one or two more weeks and finish our work. Then we can agree on the next round in light of what was produced by this round? Al-'Allaf also said that the fact that the Israeli side is limiting the meetings of this round to four days, and at the same time asking for another round to be held soon in Rome indicates that they are not serious about the talks on establishing peace.

Lebanon's Shammas Rejects Israeli Statement

NC3004082292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the peace talks, rejected the Israeli statement read by the Israeli delegation after Tuesday's meeting. Before beginning talks yesterday, Shammas said: Lebanon still adheres to UN Security Council Resolution 425. There can be no peace without Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Shammas met with Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Edward Djerejian to discuss the atmosphere of the talks and the tension caused by the Israeli statements and threats. It was agreed that additional Lebanese-U.S. meetings would be held in the next few days.

After three hours of heated discussions during yesterday's meeting, Shammas said the Lebanese delegation asked the Israeli delegation about the declaration Israel issued in Arabic, noting its negative aspects. These stands overshadowed yesterday's meeting, Shammas said, which is not good. He stressed that the Israeli statement Tuesday evening reflected negatively on yesterday's talks because it removed an important element, namely mutual confidence. The loss of confidence is the result of Israeli attempts to describe outside the hall half-truths of what is happening in the talks. He said: We have the impression that the Israelis are not serious about making progress. This impression increased more when the Israeli side told the Lebanese side it wanted to conclude the round of talks today, after the morning session. This prompts me to ask if there is any reason to come to Washington to negotiate for only three days. My answer is no. I have the impression that the current course is the not the best way to make progress. In addition, the Israeli statements, which have affected the course of the talks, prompt me to regrettably say that they are not serious.

Asked about Israel's holding the Lebanese Army responsible for what happens in the south and its veiled threat to act against it, Shammas said: It is true they have military prowess. We, however, are determined to confront this, but we do not mean militarily.

Shammas criticized the Israelis' concentration during the talks on one issue: terrorism. They have described the whole situation as a problem of terrorism, he said, adding: They do not want to admit that the Lebanese people's activity against them is the result of their military occupation of Lebanon. Until Israel decides to implement Resolution 425, the vicious cycle will continue.

Jerusalem TV Cites Delegates on Proceedings

TA2904191992 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Report by Ya'ir Stern in Washington]

[Excerpt] This was today's scene: Israeli, Jordanian, and Palestinian delegations sitting together, something we have not been permitted to film since December because of the differences between the delegations. Today, due to the businesslike and good atmosphere, we were permitted to film and we even noticed Israeli chocolates on the tables for the Arab guests. Israel suggested to Jordan

and the Palestinians to hold another round of talks in Rome in late May or early June, prior to the Knesset elections. The Arabs say they will agree if the current round of talks is extended due to the new anticipation created.

[Begin recording of Jordanian delegation head 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, in English] Taking the general tone of the beginning of this round, which showed some hope, we thought that this should continue until next week, so we requested that we better continue with the round till next week. If this round will be evaluated in a positive way then the question of a second round in the new venue will be considered favorably. [end recording]

Dr. al-Majali added that Israel proposed keeping up direct ties between the rounds of talks but that the Arabs oppose that.

In the talks with the Palestinian delegation, the discussions continued today on the Israeli proposal to hold municipal elections in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, something the Palestinians are not too keen about.

[Begin recording of Palestinian delegation head Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, in English] They did not offer anything specific. They simply embodied some ideas to think about, and there is no specific plan or any specific project that they have embodied in this letter. [end recording]

Anyway, the talks with the Jordanians and Palestinians are being conducted in a businesslike way. In the talks with the Jordanians, proposals by both sides on the division of the water resources when peace comes were discussed over the past two days. Dr. Rubinstein is pleased.

[Begin Rubinstein recording] There are many areas on which there is no agreement, and there is no need to exaggerate the optimism about speedy solutions. Nevertheless, there is a feeling about the start of a more businesslike approach to the negotiations. [end recording]

In the daily news briefing, Deputy Minister Netanyahu stressed that in all the committees here in Washington there is currently an Israeli paper on the table which is the basis for real discussions.

Even the Syrians agreed to accept an Israeli paper which details the points of agreement between the two countries. Only in the talks with Lebanon were several strained chords heard when in last night's meeting Uri Lubrani, the head of the Israeli delegation, said that whoever believes that Israel will yield on its security interest in south Lebanon is deluding himself. The Lebanese took that hard and issued a statement attacking Israel. [passage omitted]

Israel Offers To Hand Over Health Administration

TA3004051792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Excerpts] At the bilateral talks in Washington, Israel last night offered a compromise proposal in an attempt to solve the dispute over the issue of the Palestinian diaspora. [passage omitted]

Israel also offered to hand over the running of the public health services in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip to the Palestinians. The Palestinians, for their part, demanded that Israel allow them to be involved in the budget of the Civil Administration, in land registration in the territories, and in control of water resources.

The Palestinians rejected an Israeli proposal for direct contact between the heads of delegations in the period between one round of talks and the next. The Israeli delegation is returning home tonight. An attempt was made to continue with the negotiations next week, but the two sides could not reach agreement on the precise schedule.

The head of the Jordanian delegation, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al- Majali, said that since the negotiations are not continuing next week, he cannot take a decision on the Israeli proposal to hold the next round of talks at the end of May or early June in Rome.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 30 April adds that "the negotiations with the Jordanians are being conducted in a very businesslike manner. Last night, the Jordanians submitted a draft agenda for the continuation of the negotiations, to be agreed upon between Israel and Jordan. Talks between experts from both countries on energy, water, and environmental issues were being held in parallel."]

Following the talks in Washington is our reporter Connie Lon:

[Begin recording] [Lon] The Israelis continue to say the talks are going well, and the Arab delegations say they will study the Israeli proposals. So far, they are cool to most of them, but have not rejected them. Wednesday, Israel proposed the Palestinians take over the administration of all hospitals and health services in the territories. They say this and the proposal for municipal elections could begin immediately and could assist in larger areas of negotiation. The announcement was made by Deputy Minister Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] We have suggested to the Palestinian Arabs, to the Palestinian delegation, that we choose one area out of the dozen spheres of coexistence, of the administration of daily life in the territories, that we choose one area which we will delegate to the Palestinians. The area we suggest to be delegated to the Palestinians—and again, delegated does not mean that we have to wait till the end of the negotiations—is the area of public health. There are, for example, nine hospitals in Judaea,

Samaria, and Gaza at present administered by us, and we have suggested that they be administered not by us in this case.

[Lon] Israel now says it has presented two sets of specific proposals: the municipal elections and the delegation of the public health responsibilities. They are under study.

In meetings between the Syrians and the Israelis, two papers are under review. At this point, the Syrians disagree with most of the points outlined by Israel, but they are studying the ideas about the shape of a Syrian-Israeli peace. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 30 April reports that "there is no progress in the negotiations with Syria and Lebanon. Yosi Ben-Aharon, the head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with the Syrians, told our correspondent that the Syrians still refuse to recognize Israel's right to exist and that their apparent readiness to take positive steps was probably the result of U.S. pressure.]

Palestinian Reaction 'Discouraging'

TA3004110992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] The director of Israel's Government Press Office says initial Palestinian reaction to Israel's proposal on health facilities in the territories is discouraging. Israel has offered Palestinians to govern their own hospitals and other health facilities. Dr. Yosi Olmert, in Washington for the peace talks, told reporter Dani Gur-Arye this morning some Palestinian negotiators want the world to think the negotiations are not going well.

[Begin recording] [Olmert] This is a proposal according to which the Palestinians could have the ability to run their entire health system in the territories, and we believe that this a major step forward.

[Gur-Arye] Is there any indication Palestinians would respond positively to such a proposal?

[Olmert] I don't see any reason why they should not accept, but unfortunately not always what is being discussed between us and them in the meeting room is what they say then in public and, unfortunately, what they say in public about what they were offered yesterday and today is not very encouraging.

[Gur-Arye] But in the meetings it sounds more encouraging, you are saying?

[Olmert] I don't want to draw a specific difference between what they say in the room and what they say outside, but I can tell you that there is not always a similarity between the two.

[Gur-Arye] We have been hearing for the last few days from Israeli representatives that the talks are going well, that the atmosphere is positive, and, on the other hand, we hear from Palestinian delegates that things aren't going well. How do you explain the disparity between those two?

[Olmert] Things are going well, and those who say things are not going well are those who are interested in making them look like this. Unfortunately, there are some Palestinian spokesmen who would like you to believe in it, but there are proposals, there are ideas, papers are being exchanged, and this is exactly what negotiations are all about. [end recording]

Israeli Proposal on Diaspora Palestinians Studied

TA2904182892 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] The heads of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks conferred with Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian this morning and presented him with a proposal which could permit the convening of the committees on multilateral peace talks in May. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has learned that under the proposal, Israel will agree to include Palestinians from the diaspora in the talks on condition that they are citizens of the neighboring Arab states and live there permanently. Under the proposal, the representatives of the diaspora will not be able to appear in the committees as part of the Palestinian delegation but only as members of the delegations representing the Arab states. The proposal refers to the committees on refugees and economic development in the region. The Americans are currently studying the proposal with the Arab and Palestinian delegations.

Jerusalem Interviews 'Ashrawi on Elections

JN2904170592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1445 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Telephone interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation at the Washington peace talks by radio correspondent Sa'id Mu'addi; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi: Good morning, because it is morning where you are; and good afternoon, because it is afternoon where we are.

['Ashrawi] Good morning.

[Mu'addi] The Palestinian side was yesterday presented with an Israeli proposal on holding local elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. What is the Palestinian response to this proposal?

['Ashrawi] We received a letter yesterday. However, this letter cannot be viewed as a serious or carefully-considered proposal. It merely contains initial ideas. These ideas cannot be viewed as a proposal. It is void of any details or issues that can be considered. However, the Palestinian response is clear. It is obvious that the Israeli side is attempting to provide food for media

purposes, a story for propaganda purposes with the aim of winning the public. It has failed to lend any substance to these proposals. Likewise, it has failed to display any seriousness. Therefore, the Israeli proposal is outside the framework, bases, and objectives of the negotiations of this phase. Municipal elections have nothing to do with political negotiations. What is required here is to negotiate to transfer authority through the election of a Palestinian authority that can shoulder the general executive and legislative political responsibilities. And this is indeed the gist of the Palestinian proposal submitted in this regard. We respond to the Israeli side by putting its so-called proposal in its proper context and also by telling the Israelis that this proposal is alien to the requirements of the current phase. Furthermore, we would like to tell the Israelis that Israel has been prohibiting elections in the occupied Palestinian territories since 1976. Moreover, we would like to remind them of what happened to those elected. Consequently, if they want to revive this experience, then they can immediately return the elected municipal councils which they dismissed. For our part, we do not object to municipal elections. However, we believe that this should take place after a national authority is elected to take over the tasks and responsibilities spelled out. Such a legislative authority should be empowered to hold any further elections it deems appropriate.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan: Some believe that the rejection of elections by members of the Palestinian side is caused by the fear that some certain political currents in the territories might win the elections. What is your comment on this?

['Ashrawi, laughing] Honestly, this is an absurd view that has nothing to do with the reality on the ground. We demand elections by all means. However, we want substantive and meaningful elections. We do not want Israel to interfere in issues in such a way as to prejudice the outcome of the elections. Israel is unilaterally endeavoring to impose a fait accompli and effect changes. As for us, we want the elections. Indeed, we were happy that Israel finally, after all these years, has seen the need for holding elections in the occupied territories. We have not rejected elections. What we have done is that we put them in their proper context. Elections must be ordered by a competent Palestinian authority and held by an interim Palestinian authority.

[Mu'addi] Has the Palestinian side received invitations to attend meetings of the committees which emanated from the Madrid [as heard] conference?

['Ashrawi] The Palestinian side, through Mr. Faysal al-Husayni in Jerusalem, has received invitations to attend meetings of two working groups which emanated from the multilateral talks. The reference here is to the working groups on economic development and refugees. The Palestinian political leadership is still considering these invitations.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan: A last question. Press reports published in East Jerusalem yesterday said that the Jordanian-Palestinian ties are deteriorating and that the visit by members of the Palestinian side to Cairo is a hint to Amman that a solution to the Palestine question can also be secured through cooperation and coordination with Arab capitals other than Amman. What do you have to say on this?

['Ashrawi] Let us say that the Palestinian-Arab ties are good and strong. There is constant coordination between us and other Arabs. As for the ties with the Jordanian side, they are good and constructive. Besides, these ties do not suffer from any shortcomings or misunderstandings. You are well aware that the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination has been going on for a very long time, even prior to the convocation of the Madrid conference. Right now, the scope of inter-Arab action has been broadened to promote Arab objectives. The reference here is to coordination with the aim of producing common stands, obtaining consolidated support for the Palestinian position, and healing the rift in the Arab world in general. Indeed, this is what the Palestinian side is doing. This does not have negative effects. On the contrary, this could have positive effects on Palestinian-Jordanian ties. This is because this endeavor puts these ties in their properly balanced inter-Arab context.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan: When will the next round of talks be held between the two sides today?

['Ashrawi] A general meeting will be held first. This will be followed by a meeting between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

[Mu'addi] Thank you, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian side.

['Ashrawi] Thank you. You are most welcome, Sa'id.

'Urayqat—Municipal Elections Unacceptable

TA3004053892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Palestinian delegate Sa'ib 'Urayqat says the Israelis are trying to change the terms of reference of the bilateral negotiations by proposing municipal elections before general elections throughout the territories for a Palestinian legislative council. He says only then should municipal elections take place that would be organized by the Palestinians themselves. 'Urayqat spoke by phone from Washington with reporter David Ze'evi:

[Begin recording] ['Urayqat] In order to set the record straight, we must be reminded here that we came here in accordance with the letter of invitation, which is now the terms of reference for this peace process, and to speak of the start when we have to really reach agreement on conducting elections in general for a legislative council. Now, if we are going to start with the municipal elections, we know that the basic laws are different, we know that this only constitutes 30 percent of the people, we

know what had happened to the mayors who were elected in 1976—I'm not going to tell you about it—so we urged the Israelis to really consider, you know, the ideas of general elections in the occupied territories, and then, after these elections are conducted—immediately after that—the sphere of municipal affairs will conduct its own elections.

[Ze'ev] So anything less than that would not be acceptable to you?

['Urayqat] That, if we want really to engage in peace and reach our deadline of reaching and implementing an interim self- government arrangement by the end of October, next October, and we are running out of time.

[Ze'ev] We are told here that the Israelis have suggested to the Americans as a compromise in the multilateral talks next month Palestinians living outside the territories could participate, but in a delegation of the country in which they now live. Would that suit you?

['Urayqat] We haven't heard this at all. All we know is that we're going to at least two committees for the multilaterals, or we are invited to go for two committees in the multilaterals—namely, the economic development and the Palestinian refugees committee in a delegation that's composed of inside and outside—and we have been officially notified by certain by all the countries who are hosting these committees.

[Ze'ev] And as a result, your delegation will include Palestinians from outside the territories?

['Urayqat] I think the Palestinian delegations will include Palestinians from inside and outside. [end recording]

Ultra-Orthodox Jews Join Palestinian Delegation

TA2904155192 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Apr 92 p 2

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Text] Two members of the ultra-Orthodox Neturey Qarta movement yesterday received the official letter confirming their membership in the Palestinian delegation.

The letter, signed by Faysal al-Husayni and addressed to Hayim Tzvi Freimann and Hillel Deutsch in English, says: "I am glad to notify you that you have been appointed to the Palestinian team to the peace conference in the capacity of an adviser to the team. Your appointment is considered effective immediately."

Rabbi Hirsch, who calls himself the sect's foreign minister, said yesterday that "the appointment of Neturey Qarta members to the delegation is aimed at highlighting the difference between Jews and Zionists." Freimann and Hirsch are presently at Washington's Grand Hotel with the rest of the Palestinian delegation.

Paper Notes Details of Israel-Jordan Water Talks

TA3004130492 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 30 Apr 92 pp 1, 17

[Report by Washington-based correspondent Rami Tal]

[Excerpt] In the framework of the Washington peace talks, Israel has submitted a proposal to Jordan suggesting the establishment of a joint administration for the joint exploitation of the Jordan and al-Yarmuk River waters. This was divulged yesterday by reliable sources in Washington.

The sources said that the Israeli proposal is based, among other factors, on the intensive contacts held over the past year between Israeli and Jordanian officials. The contacts, which were held on a regular basis in the vicinity of Elat and Lake Tiberias, dealt primarily with two issues: water exploitation and environmental protection.

The Israeli paper concerning the exploitation of the Jordan and al-Yarmuk River waters is only a segment of a comprehensive document on the region's water problem. The Israeli proposal suggests that to finance these projects, an effort should be made to raise financial resources in Saudi Arabia and Persian Gulf oil emirates.

The plan does not recommend grants, but rather long-term, low- interest loans. In indirect contacts, the Saudis expressed basic willingness to take part in projects of this nature, although they pointed out that it would depend on tangible progress in the talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

One of the sources said that the Israeli proposal to Jordan includes also the construction of a hydroelectric power station.

While Jordan has not reacted officially to the Israeli proposal, sources said the Jordanians embraced the suggestions with enthusiasm and were eager to implement them, but that they, too, made cooperation contingent on progress in talks with the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Discusses Libyan Crisis

League Awaiting Libyan Stance

NC2904144492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1359 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Ju'an, Kuwait's permanent delegate to the Arab League, has stated that solving the crisis between Libya and certain Western countries hinges on Libyan and Arab decisions. He said: We are awaiting Libya's declaration of its stance so that the Arab League Council can make a decision on the Libyan memorandum. He noted that discussion of this issue will be completed this evening. In a statement

today, he noted that there is an Arab commitment to international legitimacy, which comes before commitment to the Arab League resolutions. He pointed out that Arab ministers completed discussion of the political issues on the agenda of the current session and that the Arab League Council began discussion of financial and administrative issues on the agenda.

Libya Asked for Draft Resolution

NC2904220492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2126 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—The heads of the delegations participating in the Arab League Council meetings held a closed session this evening to redraft the decision prepared by the seven- member Arab committee regarding the Arab stand on the Libyan-Western crisis.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' asked Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for External Laision, if he thought that the decision was suitable and satisfactory for Libya. Al-Bishari answered that Libya does not want to embarass any of the Arab brothers. Al-Shar' then proposed to al-Bishari that Libya prepare a draft resolution to be submitted for discussion. Al-Shar' also said that the Arab delegations will make changes to the resolution if they deem such changes necessary.

Immediately afterward, it was decided to hold a closed meeting of only permanent representatives to discuss the draft resolution which Libya will adopt.

League Council Issues Statement

NC2904230092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2225 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—In a statement issued here tonight, the Arab League Council decided that the seven-member committee formed by the Arab League to resolve the Libyan-Western problem as soon as possible should continue its efforts with all parties in accordance with a working paper, come up with a suitable solution based on the principles of international law, and submit a report on the outcome of its efforts to the Council.

The Council reiterated its previous decisions concerning the Libyan crisis.

At the end of the meetings of its 97th session, the Arab League Council requested the seven-member committee to submit a report on the outcome of its efforts to the Council.

The statement says that out of its eagerness to find a suitable solution acceptable to all parties and to end the grave escalation of this crisis and the negative results which could be produced by the crisis, the Council calls on the concerned countries to continue their efforts and dialogue. The Council also calls on the Arab League secretary general to continue his efforts with the UN secretary general to find a peaceful solution to this crisis.

The Arab League Council reiterated its condemnation of all forms of terrorism. It praised the Libyan condemnation of international terrorism and Libya's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 731.

The Council expressed its extreme concern over the issuance of Security Council Resolution 748, which is based on Chapter VII of the UN Charter, and said the negative results of this resolution for the Arab situation do not contribute to solving the problem but to harming the interests of the Libyan people.

The statement noted that the Arab League Council discussed the Libyan-U.S.-British-French crisis. In this regard, the Council listened to the report submitted by the head of the Libyan delegation, who reviewed the developments concerning the crisis and Libya's response. The head of the Libyan delegation also explained his country's demand for a neutral, legal investigation into the charges against the two Libyan citizens, his country's acceptance of the International Court of Justice ruling concerning the problem submitted to it, and Libya's readiness to study any other proposals compatible with the principles of international law in accordance with Libyan sovereignty.

The Council also discussed the contents of the messages exchanged between the Arab League and UN secretaries general.

The statement noted that the Council listened to a report on the activities of the seven-member committee and its efforts and contacts with all parties, including the outcome of its meetings in Cairo, Tripoli, and Rabat.

'Deep Differences' Emerge

JN3004055392 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Excerpts] Arab foreign ministers ended a two-day ordinary session at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo late last night with a statement about the crisis between Libya and the West. [passage omitted]

Deep differences emerged during the debate on the resolution on Libya, which was described by political circles as weak and flimsy. While Syria, Iraq, Sudan, and Libya demanded a tougher position rejecting the blockade against the Libyan people, the Gulf states, in particular, adhered to what they termed international legitimacy.

Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Bishari declined to comment on the extent of his country's satisfaction with the Arab League resolution, but said the resolution reflected the current Arab state of affairs. [passage omitted]

Statements by al-Bishari on Libyan Crisis

Memo Will Not 'Embarrass' U.S.

NC2904122692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the Libyan People' Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation and chairman of the 97th Arab League Council sessions, has said that the memorandum submitted by Libya to the Arab League Council does not contain anything that will embarrass the United States.

In a statement made at midday today, al-Bishari said: We are currently in a confrontation, but we (?will find) a peaceful solution.

Al-Bishari added: We were friends with the United States in the past, and we hope that this friendship will be revived, that we will enjoy bilateral relations.

League To Decide on Memo 29 Apr

NC2904150592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1445 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for External Liaison and chairman of the Arab League Council's current 97th session, has said that the Council has decided to postpone making a decision on the report prepared by the seven-member committee—on the Libyan memorandum to the Arab League on Libya's problem with the Western countries—until its meeting this evening. In a statement after the three-and-a-half-hour Arab League Council meeting at noon today, he said that the Council discussed a number of economic, financial, and administrative issues on its agenda.

Need To 'Negotiate' With U.S.

NC3004063492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2315 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for External Liaison and head of the Arab League Council's 97th session, has said the seven-member committee formed by the Arab League will meet soon to adopt a work program for talking to capitals involved in the Libyan-Western crisis.

In a statement following the final Council session this evening, al-Bishari said the conferees discussed ways of avoiding the issuance of any new coercive [qasriyah] measures against Libya due to the charges made against it.

Al-Bishari added that the United States is one of the world's most important countries and it is necessary to negotiate with it to explain our point of view, "which is convincing and will lead the resolution of the current dispute."

Al-Bishari declined comment on the Arab League Council statement issued tonight on the Libyan-Western problem. He said all the Arab countries—Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and others—are doing their best to help solve the problem. We have not heard any of the brother Arab ministers who took part in the meetings yesterday and today make accusations against or demands from Libya, he said, adding that everybody is convinced Libya is innocent and wants to help solve the problem.

Qaddumi Statement on Libyan Crisis, Peace Talks

NC2904170492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1538 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi has called on Arab countries to take a unified stand in addressing the Libyan-Western crisis over the crash of the U.S. airliner over Lockerbie. In a statement after the Arab League Council session this afternoon, he said: "We are absolutely dissatisfied with the Security Council resolution against Libya." He stressed that international legitimacy must be applied to the occupied Palestinian territories the same as it is applied to the Arab world, and noted that Israel conducts terrorist activities and represses the Palestinian people, and that this is "the height of terrorism worldwide."

Qaddumi said the Arab League resolutions on the Libyan crisis, which entail support for and solidarity with the Libyan position, were passed by Arab consensus and that the Palestinians are committed to this consensus. He said: We called on the Security Council through the Arab League Council to postpone passing its resolutions against Libya so that this problem could be solved peacefully. He stressed the need for addressing this crisis in a spirit of reconciliation, especially because Libya expressed complete readiness for a fair trial of the suspects and because a suspect is innocent until proven guilty. He noted that a final decision on the Libyan problem will be made by the Arab League Council at a meeting this evening.

Referring to the PLO's position on the peace talks, Qaddumi said that the PLO supports the peace process to find a fair political solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict that entails complete Israeli withdrawal from the Arab and Palestinian occupied territories, foremost of which is Jerusalem. He stressed the need for participation of Palestinians from outside the occupied territories in the multilateral negotiations, noting that the PLO is debating the manner of this participation. We are waiting for an invitation to attend the multilateral negotiations, he said: He stressed the need for progress in the bilateral negotiations in order to attend the multilateral talks. He pointed out that the Palestinian course is independent and that the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories pursue the same political course. He noted that there is continuing coordination among the Arab parties participating in the peace negotiations.

Al-Qadhdhafi Proposes Summit-Approved Handover

NC2904204492 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1937 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—AL-MUSAWWAR magazine has stated that Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi proposed to President Mubarak during their latest meeting in Sidi Barrani to hand over the two Libyan [suspects] in the Lockerbie crash to any of the three countries—the United States, Britain, or France—if an emergency Arab summit called by Egypt approves this. The magazine said that Col. al-Qadhdhafi told President Mubarak that he believes the Libyan people would agree to handing over the two Libyans through an Arab summit resolution calling on Libya to do so.

In its 1 May issue, the magazine noted that Egypt is avoiding calling an Arab summit unless there is reasonable belief that the Arab leaders will agree to a summit. Moreover, Cairo, as usual, believes that the call for a summit could come from Libya, although it is unlikely that the Arab countries will agree to this. This is because they will think that they are required to make the decision instead of Libya.

It is known that Egypt has not asked Col. al-Qadhdhafi during all the talks between the two countries to hand over the two defendants to any party. Egypt advised the Libyans that they should make their own decision, one that serves the Libyan people. The magazine said that President Mubarak continues to exert efforts to prevent increased sanctions against Libya in the hope of reaching a solution satisfactory to all parties. It said that Egypt still rejects a land blockade on Libya based on ties of unity between the Libyan and Egyptian peoples and the fact that half a million Egyptians are working in Libya.

AL-MUSAWWAR cited a high-level source as saying that during the Sidi Barrani meeting, Col. al-Qadhdhafi did not offer to hand over the two suspects to Egypt to be tried before a mixed judicial committee, because Egypt previously had refused this proposal on grounds that it was not responsible for handing over the Libyan defendants to either the United States or Britain should the court hand down such a decision.

Leaders Consult Prior To Arab League Meetings

Ministers 'Coordinate' Policies

NC2804111192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met with Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Bishari and Tunisian Minister of Foreign Affairs Habib Ben Yahya today prior to the Arab League Council meeting to coordinate stands and address the repercussions of the Libyan-Western crisis. After the meeting, Musa accompanied the Libyan and Tunisian ministers to the Arab League headquarters to attend today's meeting.

Tunisian Minister Meets Mubarak

NC2904163192 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1150 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] President Husni Mubarak today received Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Tunisian ambassador in Cairo Abdelhamid Ammar also attended the meeting.

After the meeting, Ben Yahya said that the discussions were part of continued consultations and coordination between Egypt and Tunisia following President Mubarak's recent successful visit to Tunisia and his talks with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. He stressed that there are common issues between Egypt and Tunisia and praised Egypt's position on these issues. He noted that there is continuing cooperation between the two countries based on the instructions of Presidents Mubarak and Ben Ali.

Further on Meetings

NC2904143992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] President Husni Mubarak this afternoon received Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Algerian ambassador in Cairo also attended the meeting. Musa said that during the meeting the outcome of President Mubarak's recent visit to Algeria and his meeting with President Boudiaf [title as heard] were discussed. The Arab situation in general and the Libyan-Western problem in particular were reviewed.

President Mubarak this morning received Mauritanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohamed Abdrahmane Ould Moine. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Mauritanian ambassador in Cairo attended the meeting. Musa said that the Mauritanian minister conveyed a message from Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Taya to President Mubarak on recent developments between Mauritania and Senegal. He noted that during the meeting they discussed inter-Arab relations, the Libyan-Western problem, and the sanctions that the Security Council has imposed against Libya.

Syrian Minister Meets Mubarak

NC2904135992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1314 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this afternoon. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Syrian Ambassador in Cairo Dr. 'Isa Darwish also attended the meeting. After the meeting, al-Shar' said that he conveyed greetings to President Mubarak from his brother President Hafiz al-Asad. He noted that during the meeting they debated the most important issues facing the Arab nation and the Libyan-Western crisis. He pointed out that they also reviewed the Arab

situation in general, ways of promoting joint Arab action, and building Arab solidarity that can confront the current challenges.

Al-Shar' Confers With PLO's Qaddumi

JN2904145692 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1445 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (SANA)—At noon today, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, on the sidelines of the Arab League Council meetings.

Talks centered on the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Palestine question, and the peace process in the Middle East.

Arab League: Afghan Mojahedin Should Close Ranks

LD2804204192 Riyadh SPA in English 1942 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, April 28, SPA—The secretariat general of the Arab League has appealed to the leaders of the Afghan mojahedin to close their ranks and realize their national interests to bolster the stability and independence of Afghanistan.

The League communique issued in Cairo on Tuesday [28 April] confirmed that Afghanistan badly needs to unify efforts, rise above differences and work to rebuild what the war has devastated by establishing a stable political regime and a sound economic base.

The league said it was following up with grave concern the recent developments in Afghanistan after the fall of the totalitarian regime and the subsequent collapse and destruction of all aspects of Afghan life.

The communique stressed that Afghanistan's return to its international position is awaited by all peace-loving powers, especially Arab states, which are strongly linked with Afghanistan by historic relations.

Arab League Assistant Secretary General Appointed

NC2904180992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—The Arab League Council today approved the appointment of Ambassador Ahmad Qadri as Arab League assistant secretary general. Qadri previously held the post of Egyptian Foreign Ministry secretary general and has served as Egyptian ambassador to Greece and the UAE. [passage omitted]

Damascus Declaration States To Meet 25 May

NC2904140792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1301 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak 'Ali al-Khatir has denied that there are substantial differences among the Damascus Declaration countries. He said that the declaration is firm and that its implementation only needs time and further consultations. Al-Khatir, who is currently visiting Cairo, said that the Damascus Declaration foreign ministers will hold their next meeting in Doha on 25 May.

Palestinian Affairs

DFLP's Hawatimah Calls For Suspending Talks

JN2804145092 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Apr 92 p 15

[By Riyad Mansur; report on interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Out of its concern to keep readers abreast of developments in the Palestinian arena, SAWT AL-SHA'B has maintained open telephone links with Tunis, Algiers, and Damascus, where leaders of the PLO and other Palestinian factions are staying.

We contacted Damascus several days ago where Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], is headquartered. Hawatimah was just about to leave for the Algerian capital. We agreed to hold the interview there. The following is the text of the interview:

DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah held the PLO leadership responsible for lighting the fuse of fighting among political currents in the occupied homeland and southern Lebanon, which is being lit by the PLO's bureaucratic wing.

He added that the current PLO political split is a result of violating the legitimate resolutions of the Palestine National Council and the PLO Central Council. He pointed out that violating these resolutions was a result of submitting to U.S. conditions.

Hawatimah says a ready made solution is abandoning the policy that has a unilateral grip through the power of money and the control of agencies, embracing democracy, and building national internal relations based on respect for pluralism and diverse opinions. This will lead to national reconciliation inside the Palestinian house, in addition to a true commitment to the resolutions of the PLO's joint bodies.

He strongly demanded reestablishing PLO institutions on the basis of collective leadership and large democratic reforms and the planning of joint and collective responsibilities. By doing so, we will end bureaucratic control and the violation of legislative and executive resolutions, he said.

Answering a question, Hawatimah said that the continuation of this autocratic situation in which power is monopolized contradicts the PLO's program, which asserts that the PLO is a national coalition front for all.

The DFLP secretary general said that he will present to the PLO Central Council meetings several draft resolutions on the role of the PLO Central Council and forming permanent committees on a coalition basis grouping figures, factions, and forces to monitor all that happens within the PLO and its diplomatic, financial, and political departments, because it is an executive tool.

He added that he and other forces will raise the issue of the situation of the Palestinian camps and martyrs' families in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and the occupied territories, because tens of millions [currency not specified] are being wasted on institutions and agencies while a martyr's family in Lebanon receives $12.00 per month.

Hawatimah said that he was convinced that internal Palestinian conditions should be totally overhauled so as to come up with a comprehensive national program that determines the major roads and pathways for Palestinian action.

Hawatimah also called for rectifying the course of the negotiations by rectifying Palestinian representation and the negotiations in accordance with the agenda of the resolutions of international legitimacy, including the implementation of the Fourth Geneva Convention, halting settlement activity, and adopting the land-for-peace principle.

Answering another question, he said that suspending negotiations is a higher national demand until the Madrid formula is remedied by a comprehensive representation of the Palestinian people at the bilateral and multilateral talks. He added that the resolutions of international legitimacy should be the political basis and the only frame of reference instead of the U.S. invitation letter, which is now the only frame of reference for the bilateral and multilateral negotiations. [passage omitted]

Hawatimah stated that he categorically refuses to discuss any temporary plans to administer the affairs of citizens and that this is a precondition of the multilateral talks, on the same basis of a unified, comprehensive Palestinian representation. He also rejected Arab-Israeli regional cooperation and the normalization of relations unless the Israeli enemy respects Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle. [passage omitted]

He added: The results of the upcoming Israeli elections will be a new turn, in light of which we will continue to revise our struggle tactics. In addition to our dialogue with many Israeli parties and forces, we are ready to open a dialogue with any Israeli parties that are ready to look for a compromise on the basis of an Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian territory by enforcing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, halting settlement activity, implementing the Fourth Geneva Convention, and dealing with the Palestinian cause as the cause of a people who have national rights and occupied territories. [passage omitted]

Asked about the political initiative launched by the DFLP to bring about Arab reconciliation, the DFLP secretary general said that the DFLP sent several delegations to hold talks in many Arab capitals. Jordan, the PLO, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Sudan, Libya, and Yemen have approved this initiative for comprehensive Arab reconciliation.

He added that the U.S. Administration is now trying to dismember what is left of Arab relations because it wants to deal with the Arab states one at a time.

Hawatimah said that the DFLP's reconciliation initiative has begun to bear fruit, noting that the initiative proceeded along three balanced tracks: regimes, popular diplomacy (parties and political and spiritual figures), and Arab parliaments.

He added: A Maghreb capital was planning in light of our initiative to launch an initiative for Arab reconciliation. This capital is now using hidden diplomacy, supported by the Arab Maghreb Union, to sound out views on this issue.

The DFLP secretary general concluded that he will make a series of Arab tours to include the east and Maghreb states to launch an initiative and to persuade Arab leaders to adopt Arab-Arab reconciliation.

PLO's Mahmud 'Abbas Views Talks, Confederation

TA2904151692 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 27 Apr 92 p 3

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas by unidentified correspondent in Cairo "on the eve of the fifth round of negotiations with Israel"; date not given]

[Text] [AL-MANAR] What point have consultations over the confederation with Jordan reached?

['Abbas] The talk about confederation stems from the Palestine National Council resolutions since 1983 and up to the present. In addition, the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement calls for the formation of a committee to discuss this issue. This does not preclude the establishment of a new committee at any time.

[AL-MANAR] But what about the uproar raised over this issue?

['Abbas] This is a fabricated uproar. Those who generated this uproar tried to shuffle the cards, to stir things up, and to exploit the situation to harm this idea, which stems from a real desire by both Jordan and Palestine. The establishment of the committee does not mean confederation will be implemented now but rather that the situation is being reviewed.

Perhaps those who raised such an uproar were wavering between immediate implementation, which is impossible, and immediate review, which is possible.

[AL-MANAR] Is there a crisis between the two leaderships?

['Abbas] No crisis exists between the two leaderships. There is total agreement on this. All the steps that we have launched since Madrid and up to the present are based on full coordination, whether between the delegations in the negotiations arena or between the two leaderships. We are totally committed to all the clauses of the agreement signed between the two states.

[AL-MANAR] Relations with Egypt appear to be very well developed. What point have these relations reached?

['Abbas] Undoubtedly Egypt has a basic role in the peace process. Although it has no bilateral problems with Israel, it is a principal party in the peace process, especially in the multilaterals. Egypt is important because of its relations with the United States and its Arab and international position. From this premise it can play an important role in the peace process. Coordination with it should continue, and we are always demanding that Egypt be a major party in this coordination.

[AL-MANAR] What about Palestinian-Gulf relations?

['Abbas] Clouds are still hovering over our relations with the Gulf, but efforts are continuing to remove these clouds. They will not constitute an obstacle. I hope that relations will soon return to normal.

[AL-MANAR] What is the Palestinian position on the embargo imposed on Libya?

['Abbas] We reject the embargo. We hoped that the problem would be solved by diplomatic channels and efforts. The doors are open, but imposing resolutions in such a manner and their implementation by the Security Council and the United States are puzzling. So far the United States itself has not implemented the resolutions relating to the Palestinian problem. The United States can now do whatever it wants, and international organizations have become mortgaged to the U.S. decision.

[AL-MANAR] But Washington may embargo other Arab states in the future. What should the Arabs do?

['Abbas] The Arab states should get together, coordinate, and cooperate to confront this U.S. policy. Apparently, however, the results of the Gulf War are still lingering over the Arab arena. The Arab nation's wise leaders should remove these obstacles, draw the conclusions, and use the lessons to avoid a repetition of this tragedy. It is necessary to build a carefully studied Arab strategy.

[AL-MANAR] The fifth round of negotiations has started. Is there anything new?

['Abbas] We did not negotiate in the last four rounds, but we have begun sitting together. We must understand one thing: The matter is not so simple. We have to be patient and not become distressed. The Israeli Government rejects peace in the manner which the world accepts, but the negotiations by themselves are a gain and have placed the Middle East problem on the road to a solution.

[AL-MANAR] Are you satisfied with the U.S. stand in the peace process?

['Abbas] The United States must fulfill its role as an active partner. Without serious U.S. intervention it is difficult to imagine that a solution is near. The United States talked seriously about a settlement and made serious efforts on the road to a settlement. We dealt with this talk and those efforts seriously, but I cannot say now that the United States is serious about reaching a settlement. This has been exposed by practical action.

[AL-MANAR] Don't you believe that the Palestinian leadership should pay more attention to the Palestinian arena inside the occupied territories?

['Abbas] We have to pay more attention to the arena inside the occupied territories to stop many of the negative phenomena taking place there and to put an end to them before they get out of control, especially the settling of accounts, so that the intifadah will not become a burden, as it seems sometimes. Furthermore, there are excesses and robberies which must be ended and bloated institutions which must be checked. Consultations and reviews are currently under way to rectify the mistakes.

[AL-MANAR] Israel is trying to conduct municipal elections. What is your stand?

['Abbas] We reject the municipal elections concept. This issue has been raised to eclipse the general elections plan (self-government) for the interim period. It would be better for Israel to give the dismissed mayors their jobs back. Raising the issue now is dubious, and the timing is a mistake.

[AL-MANAR] Nayif Hawatimah, general secretary of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, has demanded an end to what he called "bad practices" by the Palestinian leadership. What is your response?

['Abbas] Nayif Hawatimah plays a dual role, within and outside the PLO. He is represented in the PLO and yet opposes its actions. He has one eye on Tunis and the other on Damascus. It is regrettable that in general his positions do not stem from his concern for the Palestinian people's interests as much as concern for his organizational problems. Therefore, as long as this is the case it is not possible to adopt his position, because wavering between opposition at one time and support at another does not invite confidence in his positions. He often mixes organizational and personal issues with those of the public interest, and the public interest is very far removed from what he says.

[AL-MANAR] What is your stand concerning the Israeli elections and their effect on the negotiations?

['Abbas] We must not deal with the negotiations in light of the elections date but rather on the premise that they

are serious and ongoing. We will negotiate with the Israeli Government as long as it is there. We must look at things seriously. The elections are an internal Israeli affair which does not concern us. We will neither suspend nor stop the negotiations because of elections. All we hope for is that there will be a government that is serious about the peace process regardless of its color.

PLO's 'Abbas Meets Egypt's al-Baz on Talks

NC2804104792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met today with Mahmud 'Abbas, PLO Executive Committee member. During the meeting the two discussed efforts to advance the peace process.

Commenting on Israel's proposal to hold municipal elections, 'Abbas said that the Palestinians have called for general legislative elections as outlined in the paper submitted by the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations. Municipal elections are irrelevant, he said. He pointed out that the bilateral negotiations currently focus on the Palestinian and Israeli papers, and he noted that there is a huge gap between the two proposals. He said that time and effort are required to bring the views closer.

Editorial Supports Negotiators, Talks With Israel

TA2804140592 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 27 Apr 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Talks Should Move On"]

[Text] A new round of talks between the Palestinians and Israelis open up this week in Washington. As usual, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir pre-empts discussions of these talks by reiterating hard-line statements on Israel's insistence on keeping all the occupied territories and not giving the Palestinians anything of value.

While we believe that Shamir really thinks he can and wants to keep all the occupied territories, this should not discourage us from pursuing with full-force efforts to change the status quo and win our rights back.

After four rounds of talks and many years of dealing with the Israelis, we should by now have become experts in the way Israelis think and what they expect. With this advantage, we should plan our strategy for the future talks and know exactly what we want.

Some Palestinians insist that because of such Israeli statements and because we know Israel is not going to give us anything, we are wasting time participating in the talks. They think that the talks will turn against us and we will be pressured to make all the concessions while Israel gets to come out with the lion's share and permanent control over not only Palestine, but the entire region.

This is true if we allow Israel to get what it wants; but Israel won't get anything without our consent and we are not going to give up our rights so easily. Our goal for the future is very clear: total independence. How we get there is another question and this is what the various Palestinian political groups disagree on; but what else is new?

The call today is increasing for consensus in decision making. This, in our opinion, is totally unworkable. Expecting to see consensus on matters as critical as determining the future of our nation is close to, if not, impossible. Therefore the best solution, which has been tested and proven to work best, is majority rule and decision making.

If decisions were made by a majority, then they should be accepted. When matters come to a time when decisions concerning the entire nation must be made, such as what form of state we should have, then the issue should be brought to a parliament which represents the entire population. Whichever way the parliament votes, also by majority, should be accepted.

It is not written anywhere that every political group should get things its own way. Therefore, the group with the majority vote should proceed to work according to what it sees best and the rest should play the role of opposition and express an opinion. If their opinion is persuasive, then the people will make that clear.

The present participants in the peace talks should proceed with their mission at full force without looking behind them. The future of this nation depends on their efforts and dedication.

This week, the talks are on the bilateral level; next month, they grow to the multilateral level. Hard work is expected to meet the upcoming challenges and we have no doubt that those who agreed to participate in this arduous process are ready to give it 200 percent of their efforts.

Negotiations To End Without Anything 'Worthwhile'

TA2904183392 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 29 Apr 92 p 12

[By Sirhan al-Salaymah]

[Excerpt] The fifth round of Arab-Israeli talks has begun in Washington. In my opinion and according to all available information, it will end in a fashion similar to the previous rounds, without any worthwhile result except that the spokesmen of the participating delegations will announce that "progress was made" and that the talks were held "in a frank and clear atmosphere" and so on. Afterward, the delegations will return the same way that they went and with them will return our Palestinian delegation, which will definitely hold a news conference in Jerusalem to tell us something which we have heard so often that we can no longer bear to hear more of it. Why?

Because, in short, we are no longer aware of the nature of our negotiating strategy and of the background against which our delegation went to Washington on the eve of the Israeli elections. We went while realizing that Yitzhaq Shamir wants this round to enhance his shaky electoral position.

The Palestinian street in the occupied territories is no longer convinced by what is taking place and sees the Washington talks as merely "a show" put on by Shamir's government in collusion with the U.S. Administration.

Our Palestinian street wants to be in the picture of the negotiating process, not on its periphery. It wants to know what its role is in this process and what is required of it. Our fervor for the peace process decreased after Madrid and will decrease further if our situation continues as it is. If our Palestinian delegation wants to be borne on shoulders just as after its return from Madrid, it should go into the street and enter every Palestinian home, school, factory, refugee camp, and village to explain its negotiating strategy, the existence of which is doubted by most of us. We want our delegation to reflect our national sentiments in every step that it takes, in every press statement, and in every act.

We want our delegation—so that we can support it with all our might—not to remain silent to Shamir's repeated provocations at every round of negotiations.

In short, we want a delegation that goes to Washington on our own terms, not on Shamir's. We have come to feel that he is trying to impose on us our representatives. If, God forbid, we were to choose someone that he does not like, he would either ban that representative from traveling or maybe detain him, and we would suspend our departure for a day or several days. Then the United States would request us to show up in Washington, otherwise we would be the losers. We would go because we fear the loss, as if there is anything left for us to possibly lose!

What is required, particularly on the Palestinian and national levels, is to reassess the political process and our role in it and to draw the necessary conclusions on the basis of the supreme Palestinian national interest, without paying heed to narrow factional criteria. [passage omitted]

PLO Proclaims Neutrality in Israeli Elections

TA2804133292 Jerusalem AL-NADWAH in Arabic 24 Apr 92 p 1

["Exclusive" AL-NADWAH report]

[Text] Cairo—Brother Muhammad Sabih, official spokesman of the Palestine National Council, has said that "the PLO does not and will not interfere in the Knesset elections because that is a matter which concerns the Israelis." Muhammad Sabih categorically denied that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat had recommended that voters vote in favor of the Labor Party, especially because Yitzhaq Rabin is not the knight of our dreams.

Sabih added: "As an official Palestinian institution, the PLO will not advise voting for any party—Arab or Jewish. It is apparent, however, that the elections and their outcome clearly will affect the future of the occupied territories and the peace process in particular, but we absolutely will not interfere in the elections."

As for statements attributed to some Palestinians that they prefer the Labor Party, Sabih said: "Those statements express personal opinions only and do not reflect the PLO's position."

Further on Deposed PPSF Leader Samir Ghawshah

PPSF Denies 'Dissension'

JN2904184092 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1658 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] A responsible source in the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] has stated the following:

Some news agencies, newspapers, and other media have carried reports on what they termed differences and dissension within the PPSF. We deem it important to explain that these reports are baseless and inaccurate. Against the backdrop of these reports, we would like to note that a meeting was held by the PPSF Central Committee. During the meeting it was decided to withhold confidence from Dr. Samir Ghawshah [secretary general of the PPSF] and strip him of all of his powers for failing to comply, politically and organizationally, with PPSF stands and policies.

Additionally, Comrade Khalid 'Abd-al-Majid was elected a new secretary general of the PPSF.

Organization Rejects Ghawshah's 'Lies'

JN2904191792 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] A responsible source within the PPSF Political Bureau has stated the following: A statement was issued by Dr. Samir Ghawshah in Tunis containing a host of falsehoods and lies on the results of the meetings held by the PPSF Central Committee. This prompts us to make the following clarifications:

First, it is highly regrettable that Dr. Samir Ghawshah has chosen to engage in this conduct, which reflects a departure from PPSF principles, regulations governing its bodies and institutions, as well as from its traditions and history.

Second, the Central Committee meeting held in Damascus between 25 April and 27 April 1992 was held three years after Dr. Samir Ghawshah failed to associate

himself with PPSF institutions and organizational agencies and to seek their arbitration and judgment.

Third, the Central Committee met with an absolute majority of its members, with all members of the Political Bureau attending. The Central Committee affirmed its concern for maintaining contacts with those who failed to attend the meeting out of a desire to maintain work within PPSF agencies and institutions and to ensure compliance with the PPSF positions and policies.

Fourth, the Central Committee affirmed the unity of the PPSF and the unity of its institutions and bodies, in keeping with the firmly established political and organizational principles governing it and the PPSF bylaws, which underscore the role of the Central Committee and deem it the top central leadership body entrusted with leading the PPSF in all spheres between each of its two congresses.

Fifth, the Central Committee was concerned with calling the ninth congress into session during the next few months. It wants all to attend this congress.

Sixth, we would like to affirm that we will not allow ourselves to be dragged down by the media vituperations being fabricated by Dr. Samir Ghawshah to justify his conduct as well as his political and organizational practices, which have nothing to do with PPSF organizational guidelines or with PPSF policies and stands. We hope that he will accept the Central Committee's decisions and the results of its meetings. Furthermore, we hope that he will accept the judgment reached by observing democratic regulations, laws, and rules, which we are eager to observe.

PLO's Abu-Sharif Scores Israeli 'Death Squads'

JN2904180592 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1603 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to brother president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], has affirmed that the Zionist occupation authorities have stepped up their illegal murder operations against Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories.

At a news conference held at the British House of Commons, brother Abu-Sharif pointed out that the Zionist enemy authorities are using special death squads to carry out these operations. He noted that the Zionist army chief of staff is the person in charge of these squads.

Brother Abu-Sharif urged the United Nations to take urgent steps to protect the Palestinians, who are being exposed to constant and organized murder operations.

PLO Condemns Assassination of Nabulus Figure

JN2904175792 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1603 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] A PLO spokesman has commented on the crime of the assassination of the lawyer Nazih Rushdi Kan'an, saying: On the night before last, 27 April, agent and suspect hands heinously murdered a nationalist figure in Nablus. They assassinated him in his office while he was working.

The PLO condemns this heinous crime and urges the Unified Palestinian Leadership to make haste in its efforts to uncover the perpetrators and protect the people and patriots in [words indistinct].

Palestinian Official Appointed Washington Envoy

TA2804140992 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 28 Apr 92 p 1

[Text] Washington—Faruq Qaddumi has appointed Anis al-Barghuthi, member of the Palestine National Council, as head of "the Palestinian affairs office" in the U.S. capital. Since 1982 this office has been headed by Hasan 'Abd-al-Rahman, who is keeping his other post as head of the PLO office in Ottawa to which he was assigned in 1989.

Israel Rejects Territories Radio Station

TA2804115192 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 26 Apr 92 p 2

[Text] Jerusalem—The Israeli authorities have turned down attorney Jonathan Kuttab's request to set up an educational radio station in the occupied territories.

A month ago the Israeli authorities turned down another request by the Palestinian attorney to set up a Palestinian television station.

The attorney's request said that the political moves and the peace talks require providing the sons of the Palestinian people with the opportunity to communicate directly with the people in the occupied territories.

Jordanian Banks Seek West Bank Operations

TA2804153392 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 27 Apr 92 p 1

[Text] It has been learned from informed sources in the Jordanian capital that currently two requests by Jordanian banks which wish to open branches in the West

Bank are being examined. The banks are the Jordan Bank and the Arab Bank.

It is expected that the Jordan Bank will soon receive permission to operate in the West Bank, because the process of obtaining the final agreements and discussing the conditions that will define the bank's activities are currently under way. As for the Arab Bank, the situation is more difficult and has many dimensions. It is possible that the matter will reach a dead end.

It is worth noting that two banks are presently operating in the West Bank and Gaza Strip: the Cairo-Amman Bank and the Bank of Palestine.

Algeria

Supreme Court Upholds Ban on FIS, Denies Appeal

LD2904124992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] The issue of the dissolution of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has been finally decided. How was that done, and what was the decision? Mohsen Slimane attended the final hearing at the court and prepared the following report for us:

[Slimane] The FIS' birth certificate was torn up just as a person's birth certificate can be torn up. This was the reaction of [lawyer] Ali Yahia Abdenour to the Supreme Court's confirmation of the decision on 4 March by the administrative chamber of the Algiers court to dissolve the FIS.

The Supreme Court took the view that the appeal by the FIS lawyers was groundless, and it termed the dissolution order by the administrative chamber as being in line with existing laws.

The confirmation ruling and the judgement on the appeal being groundless were based on the FIS' calls to instigate violence and opposition to the existing authority. The call signed by [FIS leader Abdelkader] Hachani on 18 January 1992 and addressed to members of the Army was regarded as a serious threat to civil security and peace, as stipulated in the text of the Supreme Court ruling. The ruling was also based on statements No. 12 and 16 signed by [FIS official] Abderrazak Radjam which described the existing authority as a ruling clique, in addition to the call addressed to foreigners not to cooperate with the authority. This was seen as a threat to isolate Algeria from the rest of the world. The prosecutor also mentioned the distribution of [FIS publication] MINBAR AL-DJOUMOUA, the contents of which were instigating rebellion, he said.

In any case, after the confirmation of the dissolution of the FIS, it is expected that the party's lawyers will seek a reexamination on the basis of the legal reasoning and conditions used in the judgement. The lawyers may perhaps resort to the UN Human Rights Commission, as one of the lawyers, Ibrahim Touati, said.

'Armed Gang' Kills District Security Chief

LD2904195792 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Papers issued this morning said that the security chief of Daira District of Ksar el-Boukhari [about 60 miles south of Algiers] was killed yesterday while in a car accompanied by a police officer who was also seriously wounded. Two people on the street were also injured.

The operation was carried out by an armed gang on the town's main street at about 1700 [1600 GMT].

Egypt

Police Clash With 'Extremists' in Imbabah

NC3004071192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1912 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—A church in Imbabah, in al-Jizah Governorate, was stoned by extremist individuals today. The edifice was not damaged. One of the extremists was hit by a bullet fired by a police officer and was taken to a hospital in serious condition.

Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa said that the police force detained a number of extremists suspected of having participated in the attack. The Public Prosecutor's Office interrogated the suspects to learn more about the incident. In a statement to reporters today following his meeting with police officers leaving for Cambodia to participate in the peacekeeping force there, Musa said that the central security forces had the situation under control immediately.

The soldier guarding the al-Basrawi church in Imbabah was attacked by extremists throwing stones. He notified a police force which immediately went to the scene, where they clashed with extremists. One officer used his gun and fired two shots, one of which hit one of the extremists, who was taken to the hospital in serious condition.

Fundamentalists Kill Isna Policeman in Ambush

NC2904152892 Paris AFP in English 1432 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, April 29 (AFP)—Muslim fundamentalists in the Egyptian town of Isna beat and then shot dead a police officer, the daily AL-JUMHURIYAH reported Wednesday.

It said members of a fundamentalist group in the Upper Egypt town killed Mukhtar Ahmad Dawud, 40, in an ambush Tuesday as he rode his motorcycle home. They ran off with his revolver, the paper said.

Two people who tried to call for police help were wounded by the assailants' gunfire. The paper said the attackers fled in a truck but gave no reasons for the attack. Security forces arrested several suspects, it said.

Muslim fundamentalists from the al-Shawqiyun movement killed a police officer in early May in al-Fayyum, about 100 kilometers (62 miles) south of Cairo.

Nasirite Party Leader Discusses Goals, Plans

NC3004071792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1705 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA)—Diya'-al-Din Dawud, interim secretary general of the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party, has emphasized that the party extends its hand to all political forces in Egypt and the Arab world to serve the Arab nation's issues and to spare the Arabs

the perils threatening them. At a news conference at the journalists association today, Dawud said that Nasirists of various ages, groups, and trends have allied under the party's banner and that the emergence of the party as a legal body reflects the flourishing of party and political life in Egypt.

Dawud said the party is working to set forth anew the national pan-Arab plan to confront the dangers of regionalism and nationalism threatening the Arab nation. He noted that the party's basic principles are based on the experience of the 23 July 1952 Revolution, which changed the face of life in Egypt and the Arab world. He added that anyone who believes in the party's declared principles can join it and that individuals will be able to apply for party membership soon.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi—Suspects Free To Hand Selves Over

LD3004073192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has stated in a news conference held last night that Libya will not resort to handling over the two Lockerbie suspects accused by London and Washington. The two suspects are free to hand themselves over, however. Al-Qadhdhafi added that the two suspects are free to go anywhere.

Libya is unable to hand them over, al-Qadhdhafi says. He renewed his country's readiness to try the two suspects in Libya or in any neutral country.

As for the Arab countries' stand on the application of sanctions against Libya, al-Qadhdhafi said that the Arabs have upheld international legitimacy to emphasize the scandalous nature of what is happening.

Al-Qadhdhafi Discusses Lockerbie, Nuclear Weapons

AU2904185792 Budapest REFORM in Hungarian 23 Apr 92 pp 6, 10

[Interview with leader of the revolution Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi by HT Press correspondent Pierre Laforet in Tripoli between 19 and 22 March: "If He Accepts the Caliphate, the World Will Burst Into Flames....—Exclusive Interview With al-Qadhdhafi—His Greatest Desire Is To Visit the United States, But He Knows That This Is Impossible—Who Caused the Pan Am Tragedy? People Who Do Not Support Us Will Not Enjoy Our Generosity—The Time Will Come When People Understand the Little Green Book"]

[Text] Anyone who wants to approach Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has to spend at least two months in Tripoli but usually leaves Tripoli without having been successful. Pierre Laforet enjoyed a special favor when the "colonel", the "leader", the "desert man" received him during the month of Ramadan, between 19 and 22 March. A bodyguard protects the Libyan leader from a distance. Al-Qadhdhafi is more than 180 centimeters tall and wears a gold wedding ring on his left hand. He sends his bodyguard away with a gesture. Camels graze in a field near the tent. We are in the heart of Mu'askar al-'Aziziyah, the Libyan leader's military headquarters. Salakh Madjali, the simultaneous interpreter, is translating continuously. He is an outstanding professional. Colonel alQadhdhafi does not employ amateurs.

[Laforet] What response has the collapse of international communism elicited from you?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I think that the whole world is in tension today, apparently from every side. In addition to the general problems, the existence of two sides was something that concerned the world most. We Libyans were in the middle of this conflict precisely because of the struggle between the two sides. We think that tension has decreased around the world, and so has passion.

[Laforet] Are you worried about the recent anti-Libyan decisions?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] No. The countries that initiated all this will lose face, rather than Libya. Hundreds of foreign companies continue their operations in Libya today, companies from France, England, and so on. Some 2 million workers will be in a difficult situation now. The countries that have provoked us and thus have taken some satisfaction will soon lose many billions [currency not specified] and Libya will use this money elsewhere. We do not lack for investment projects. Some investment projects are under construction and others are in the planning stage. We will, however, no longer support those who now want to hurt us. In fact, we would welcome an embargo against us because this would enable us to return to our own resources. Therefore, I think that England and France are punishing themselves. The United States is even more cunning in this matter: They will turn toward their new enemies. Remember America's readiness to leave its old allies for new and more interesting partners if its interests so dictate? This is what happened in Kuwait. England, France, and other countries participated in that war because they were promised participation in the reconstruction. What happened? Most of the construction tenders were won by U.S. firms and France and England were left behind with the honor of their war dead.

[Laforet] And then?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] To make it clear, the Arab sullenness has been directed against England and France while U.S. firms made billions. This is the game now. Actually, the United States is seeking to stop European influence. French politics are the most suicidal. I find it extremely strange that the French accept this policy. Why? Well, this is it.

[Laforet] What solution can we find for this?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] France is getting orders from the White House at the moment, and these orders are hardly concerned with the French people. It is easy to find proof that the French Government hardly bothers with the welfare of its people. If France changed its attitude toward Libya, we would also build better relations. It is out of the question for us to help enrich our political adversary, however. Despite their political attitude, we have been extremely lenient toward France, Great Britain, and other European countries. Their firms were allowed to continue their work in our country. This can no longer continue, however. Politics and business go together; those who support our policy can also enjoy our generosity. Let me add that it is clear that we will not buy anything from anyone who opposes our cause. If it continues like this, we will close every market in Libya. We will ban imports from hostile countries. This is a warning to the world at large, and I can decide this way on behalf of Libya.

[Laforet] What about England?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Let's not even talk about it. The Conservatives and their policy have destroyed Great Britain. They destroyed the working class. They turned the English people into vagabonds. The British Government is made up of anarchists, selfish dictators, and racists. This government hates the Arabs. They hate the Muslims. This government is hurting Great Britain, a country that is nevertheless the home of a wonderful civilization. I do not even mention poor Mr. Major!

[Laforet] The summit meeting between the five Maghreb countries (Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania) and the five Western Mediterranean countries (Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, and Malta) has been postponed because of the latest events in Algeria. What is your opinion about this meeting?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] This plan fell through because of the position of the French Government, the Pan Am issue, and the French and Italian alliance with the United States.

[Laforet] Did this come as a shock to you?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Yes, it was a shock, and it was also felt by the other Maghreb countries. France insulted them very deeply. Now France wants to cooperate with them while it is stepping on our body. France wants its Arab sons to honor and respect it, while this accident was foreseeable. [sentence as published] People think that Arabs lack compassion and that they are incapable of analyzing things. This is a mistake. There are also other factors that connect all the Maghreb countries with Libya.

[Laforet] Will this year's U.S. presidential elections affect international politics?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Definitely. The U.S. elections are poisoning international affairs. Bush is not supported by all Republicans. More than one-third of Republicans do not like Bush's policy. U.S. domestic policy experts think that Bush will not have an easy election. His media advisers are probably seeking arguments to win the ultranationalist voters over. My personal advisers say that Bush will try to start a new attack against Saddam Husayn's Iraq or will try to undermine my regime and my country through economic, strategic, and political aggression. Anything can happen if the issue has already been decided, including possible damage to freedom and independence.

[Laforet] What do you think about the current and upcoming elections in Europe?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I cannot hide my 100-percent joy over the victory of the right wing, because I had enough experience with the Socialists.

[Laforet] Would an economic embargo disturb you?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I think I have already answered that question. Do you really think that a Kuwaiti person welcomes the destruction of Iraq? I received two people from Kuwait yesterday. It is the same for them whether the bombs fall on Kuwait or Iraq. Do you think that a Kuwaiti who died from a bomb is different from an Iraqi who died from a bomb? You are wrong if you think so. America did not defend Kuwait; it only defended its own interests, the oil. This is what Saddam explained to his people. The Iraqi people are now aware of this. Despite the situation in connection with our position on the invasion of Kuwait, we think that it will be Libya's turn after Iraq, and then Syria, Algeria, and finally Egypt. The Arab people have become cautious. It seems that the Western leaders have no idea of the bitterness that people feel for them. These leaders think that the Arabs agree with them when they are applauding them. Those leaders really believe that!

[Laforet] Do you think that the fundamentalists' religious fanaticism will lead to some kind of fundamentalist hegemony?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Western tyranny against the Arab world is nothing new. Muslim fundamentalists have been experiencing continuous insults for a long time, insults about their tradition, life-style, and culture. The West has always belittled Arab civilization and ravished the Arab lands. These repeated violations have elicited serious reactions. Look at history! I know how famous the name MacMahon is in France. Negotiating with Mecca's sheriff during World War I, he did not get a single inch of the Arab peninsula. He only got the right to anchor a ship there, which is much less than the Westerners wanted. You must also be aware of the fact that according to our tradition, unclean persons cannot set foot on the land of the Prophet. Christianity was considered a progeny of Hebraism, which led to violent conquests and wars. This is not my interpretation, but these are the main reasons that led to the current, seemingly irreversible antagonism, an antagonism which political adventurers expanded and abused for election purposes. If they continue to add fuel to the fire, this can only lead

to an explosion. The reemergence of religious fanaticism is also a fire, and this necessarily confronts the strongly Christian states.

[Laforet] What about you?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I received the fundamentalist leaders for an audience and they asked me to guarantee a holy war soon. They need a caliph. If I accept this, the whole world will burst into flames and will split into two: Christians on one side and Muslims on the other. Therefore, I asked them to be patient.

[Laforet] Why?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I told them that we have not yet reached the red line, but they wanted to go further. If one does not limit one's desires, one must traverse the ocean. They stuck to the idea that Libya has become the caliph's homeland, and this caliph is a worthy descendant of the Prophet. These people regard southern Europe, Sicily, Spain, and part of Bulgaria as the border areas of the Islamic empire. These people want to regain the lands that once belonged to the Andalusian and Ottoman states. I think that it is impossible, however, to think of dividing Italy or Spain. This would be a real colonization of Europe. We are well aware of our borders: North Africa. We will defend these borders. These people do not agree with this, however. They think that only people who think as they do can guarantee the independence of North Africa. For example, these people think Spain occupied the Canary Islands, and they want to get them back. They have strongly nationalistic ideas. This is not all. The fundamentalists want a Muslim state in Algeria too. Because there is no fundamentalist movement in Libya, they would like to use Libya as a bridgehead. They say that out of "revolutionary accuracy." This way, they want to save Libya from any Western influence and colonization because the fundamentalists totally oppose any surrender to the West and any form of cultural, political, or economic influence. In short, according to their ideas Libya is the pure and really fundamentalist state. I am trying to contain them as much as possible.

[Laforet] Do people have to use terrorism in order to solve political problems?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Political problems cause terrorism. If someone want to put an end to terrorism, he must solve the political issues like Palestine, the minorities, and South Africa. It is impossible to put an end to terrorism in occupied lands.

[Laforet] Are your views acceptable to the West? Does the West understand them?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] As far as I am concerned I have time. I am not a head of state. I am reading a lot. I am a member of the Academy of Social Sciences. If invited, I would readily hold a series of conferences on my views.

[Laforet] In the United States too?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Anywhere once the month of Ramadan is over. I desire nothing more than to travel to the United States, to any university which invites me!

[Laforet] Would you answer every question?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Sure, I would answer all questions, even the questions asked by people who are currently hostile to me.

[Laforet] Why this new attitude?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] To make people understand me and to show them that America makes a lot of mistakes and that the U.S. Government allows this to happen. Unfortunately, I am sure that the Americans will find an excuse to deny my entrance into the United States, like a need to "guarantee my safety." But such a visit would be important and necessary. Our world should be able to turn to the "other world" openly and clearly, and we should exchange our views.

[Laforet] As for public opinion, do you believe in elections?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I only believe in direct and people's democracy. Parliaments represent a great fraud. I continue to believe that the world will understand one day everything that I wrote in my "little Green Book." The important thing is to allow people to express their opinions. I believe in the concept of the People's Congress, where small groups of citizens can exchange their views and where people who govern them can listen to them. There can be no dictatorship this way with the people governing themselves.

[Laforet] Do you think that you will ever have a nuclear bomb?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] As long as I live Libya will not build a nuclear bomb. If Libya wanted a nuclear bomb, it would not think of building a huge channel in the desert. Am I forbidden to build a nuclear bomb? It is stupid to think so. No one has the right to forbid anyone else to build a bomb. Anyone can have a bomb. If we wanted to have one Libya could have used its billions to build one. Libya is not so stupid to waste its fortune on such a project, however. We spend our billions on conquering the desert, on creating a viable industry, on supporting our agriculture, on educating our people, on protecting our environment, on medical research against AIDS, and so on.

[Laforet] Can you actually buy anything you want?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Yes, but we do not want to waste our money on a nuclear bomb, for example. That would be stupid.

[Laforet] Let us talk about the Pan Am issue. What about your own investigation? Is there any aspect of the Lockerbie tragedy that the West does not know? Can you still come up with a surprise?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I have never told anyone the things that I am going to tell you now. Pan Am asked for professional investigators to clarify the explosion, and these investigators are in fact working for the CIA. We received the report that the bankrupt firm was unable to pay for. I sent this report to Bush the moment I received it, and I had confidence in Bush. I have not received an answer since then. Perhaps he did not have enough time to read the report because of his busy schedule with the election campaign. Apparently he was shocked at what he heard from the members of his entourage who want to make him believe that Libya is responsible for all this. We know who blew the airplane up. This completely exonerates our country. The contents of this report, which is objective and beyond argument, or the very existence of the report have never been mentioned to the UN Security Council members. The families of the victims of the Lockerbie explosion think that Libya has been chosen as a scapegoat. These families want to know the truth, however, and not the distortion of truth for political considerations.

[Laforet] Could these families obtain this report?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Of course.

[Laforet] Could we also get a copy of this investigation?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] I will give you one.

[Laforet] This means that the truth is there somewhere.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Yes.

Official Addresses European Parliament Symposium

LD2904213892 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Excerpts] The European symposium being organized by the European Parliament within the framework of the peace meetings under the slogan of Tension and Conflicts in the Mediterranean began in the Belgian capital of Brussels this morning. The opening session of the symposium was attended by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee. [passage omitted]

The brother secretary of the General People's Committee affirmed in his speech that the organization of such a symposium is an expression of the support for the Great Jamahiriyah. He asserted that the Great Jamahiriyah was the first country to emphasize the need to make the Mediterranean a lake for peace and cooperation, as well as the first country to call for the withdrawal of foreign bases and fleets from the area. Furthermore, it is the only country in the region which has never extended any service of any kind to any foreign ship in its harbors, he added.

Sudan

Iran Airlifting Arms, Ammunition to Khartoum

NC2904155792 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 26 Apr 92 p 9

[From "The Brothers" page]

[Text] The Iranian Government has agreed to supply the Islamic Front government with additional amounts of weapons and ammunition. The two governments agreed to use a number of Boeing aircraft to airlift weapons from Tehran to Khartoum as compensation for the heavy losses which the Front's troops sustained in the South—losses verified by reports from the theater of operations.

At exactly 1600 last Monday five Boeing aircraft loaded with Iranian weapons landed at Khartoum airport. The shipment was received by 'Abd-al-Rahim Husayn, secretary of the coupist [Revolution Command] council; 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, deputy secretary general of the National Islamic Front; a number of officers from the general command and logistics, as well as Iranian military experts and diplomats. The shipment was unloaded onto Sudanese military aircraft for shipment to the southern theater of operations.

Armed Forces Spokesman Details Situation in South

NC2904130092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Khartoum, 29 April (MENA)—Staff Major General Muhammad 'Abdallah 'Uwaydah, official spokesman of the Sudanese Armed Forces, has praised Egypt's stand vis-a-vis the war in southern Sudan, saying that Egypt is eager to see the war end and peace established in Sudan.

In an interview with MENA's correspondent in Khartoum, Maj. Gen. 'Uwaydah said that the Egyptian position is no surprise because Egypt has always considered Sudan's problems its own. Egypt, he added, knows that fighting in the South is a burden for the Sudanese and a waste of their resources.

The Sudanese spokesman said that Egypt has refused to supply the rebels in the South with weapons, noting that this stand is a natural result of the eternal and brotherly relations between the two nations. He also said that the Egyptians and the Sudanese share the same worries, interests, and destiny.

'Uwaydah denied rebel claims that the Sudanese Armed Forces will withdraw from positions that they captured in the fall because of the heavy rains that would hamper military operations.

The fight against the rebels, 'Uwaydah said, will not stop in autumn. The armed forces and the Popular Defense Forces will remain in control of the areas they have

captured unless peace is reached in the negotiations that will open in the Nigerian capital on 24 May.

'Uwaydah told MENA that the armed forces, supported by the Popular Defense Forces, are standing their ground in all the areas of operations in the South and are in full control of all the cities that they have liberated. The government forces, he added, now have the initiative on all battlefronts.

Opposition Says Preparing 'All-Out' Offensive

NC2904210692 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 22 Apr 92 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Sudanese opposition sources in Cairo have revealed that preparations are under way to carry out an all-out military offensive to topple the ruling regime in Sudan under Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir. The sources added that the current consultations among the Sudanese opposition factions focus on setting the date and defining the form of military action against al-Bashir.

The same sources expect that the military action will be launched from an African country neighboring Sudan. Majuk Ayyum, representative of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Sudan in Cairo, has accused the Sudanese regime of propagating the idea of secession between the South and the North in order to divide the Sudanese people.

Ayyum said that Sudanese Government forces have failed to settle the issue of the South militarily. He added that these forces, which are backed by Iran, have failed to enter Juba. He denied any contacts between the Sudanese opposition and deposed President Ja'far Numayri, and he added that Numayri has exhausted all the chances made available to him over past years.

Western Sahara

Polisario Calls For UN Troops on Moroccan Border

LD2904173992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] The Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro] Front yesterday called for the deployment of UN forces on the northern borders between Western Sahara and Morocco. On the occasion of the visit by Mr. Yaqub Khan, UN special envoy, to the Saharan camps, Mr. Bachir Mustapha Sayed, the Saharan coordinator in this mission, also requested the deployment of UN forces in the occupied Saharan towns to boost the citizens' confidence and to provide the appropriate conditions for the transfer of refugees.

To find out about the outcome of the UN envoy's talks with the Saharan officials, we now speak with Mr. Ibrahim Hakim, Saharan ambassador to Algeria, who starts by clarifying for us the Saharans' demand regarding the deployment of the UN forces:

[Begin recording] [Hakim] There is no doubt that what the Moroccan side has done recently, whether by sending Moroccans inside the [Western] Sahara or by the so-called new green march, makes us worry a great deal over the future impartiality of the referendum in Western Sahara. We therefore requested of the [UN] secretary general's special envoy that UN forces, the blue berets, be deployed along the Saharan-Moroccan borders to prevent these Moroccans whom the Moroccan side has decided to send in such large numbers into Western Sahara from going into the latter.

[Unidentified correspondent] Has the UN envoy given you assurances that these forces will be deployed ?

[Hakim] The forces there now must be supported or increased, or reinforced by new forces.

[Correspondent] Mr. Ambassador, what are the main obstacles impeding the mechanism of the referendum?

[Hakim] Morocco has put enormous obstacles before this subject. There is a [population] list left by Spain in 1975 before we, by our struggle, forced the latter to leave our homeland. This list was agreed upon by both sides, but Morocco later on demanded the extension of this list, which means what? It means that Morocco would like to send Moroccan citizens to take part in the referendum to change the future of the Sahara, or the final decision on whether it should remain an independent state or should be annexed to Morocco.

[Correspondent] Mr. Ambassador, one final question. We know that the Saharan side has expressed its readiness to accept a compromise solution and that it is also ready to accept making some concessions, so what does the Saharan side mean by concessions?

[Hakim] We have offered big concessions. We have accepted the presence of Moroccan forces during the referendum; we have accepted the Moroccan administration during the referendum. What the Saharans are asking for in return is a few minutes of democracy, i.e. a free referendum, a referendum in which only Saharans take part. [end recording]

Bahrain

Spokesman Praises UK Statement on Qatar Dispute

JN3004064492 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Manama, 29 Apr (WAKH)—Bahrain has (?appreciated) a statement issued today, 29 April 1992, by the official spokesman of the Foreign Office of the friendly United Kingdom and its (?comment) on the statement issued by the Bahraini Government on 27 April.

A responsible Bahraini Foreign Ministry official said today that having recourse to the international judiciary, represented by the International Court of Justice, is the way to resolve existing differences between Bahrain and Qatar. A joint request should be presented to the court so that it may issue a final and binding verdict.

Oman

Sultan Qabus Receives Russian Foreign Minister

JN2900134200 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id has received an oral message from His Excellency Russian President Boris Yeltsin related to the excellent relations between the two friendly countries and ways to bolster and entrench them in all fields in the interests of the two peoples.

The message was conveyed by Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev when his majesty the sultan received him in his office at the Bahjat al-Anzar Ranch in Suhar today.

The meeting was attended by Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Russian ambassador to the Sultanate.

Saudi Arabia

'Full Support' Given to New Afghan Government

LD2904200892 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, today announced its full support for the government of Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, the chairman of the interim council of the Afghan mojahedin in Kabul, and its recognition of it as the legitimate government of Afghanistan. A responsible source stated this today to SPA.

He added: The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, while expressing its extreme satisfaction and joy at this historic achievement which has realized for the Afghan Muslim people their aspiration during their long jihad to return security and stability to Afghanistan, from the heart of its steadfast capital of Kabul, which has retrieved its independence and maintained its deep-rooted Islamic heritage, is happy to express its sincerest congratulations to the leaders of the Afghan jihad and to the fraternal Afghan Muslim people who have been true to their pledge to God and who have been patient and persevered until God has prescribed a true victory for them.

The source also said: The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reaffirms its full confidence in the good discernment and administration of the interim council of the mojahedin under the leadership of Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi to further move ahead toward more progress and prosperity in security and stability.

King Instructs Experts To Examine Dome of Rock

LD2904171192 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1545 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Riyadh, 29 Apr (SPA)—A responsible source made a statement to SPA today in which he said: According to a message that the custodian of the two holy mosques has received from UNESCO Director General Mr. Federico Mayor, the third mosque [al-Aqsa in Jerusalem] is awaiting help because it has, as well as the Dome of the Rock, reached a state of delapidation which causes concern. Given that the reports of the UNESCO experts have indicated that the Dome of the Rock is in critical condition and needs restoration, and out of the keen concern of the custodian of the two holy mosques, God aid him, to save the Dome of the Rock from cracks and damage in countinuation of his immortal deeds in restoring the houses of God beginning with the two holy mosques, he has issued, God preserve him, his gracious instructions to the competent authorities to speedily send experts and specialists to examine the current condition of the Dome of the Rock and to estimate the necessary costs for its repair and restoration in coordination and cooperation with the "Arabia" committee, a newly set up UNESCO committee concerned with maintaining Arab culture and heritage. His majesty, God preserve him, has given an order that the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will spend the necessary sums according to the report of the experts and the examination and estimation.

Officials Congratulate Saddam Husayn on Birthday

Prime Minister Sends Message

JN2904194392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Apr 92

["Text" of cable of congratulations from Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, prime minister and member of the Revolution Command Council, to President Saddam Husayn on his birthday; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect you.

With the onset of joy, and amid our great people's celebrations of the blessed birthday of the nation's leader and the banner of its pride Saddam Husayn, who is supported by God, I am glad and honored to present to Your Excellency my best congratulations coupled with wishes that God Almighty, who is the best supporter, will provide you with good health and victory.

Mr. beloved leader: This year your blessed birthday has a sublime meaning in which the dream of victory and pride has been realized as the aggression has been defeated and those who wanted evil for the nation have failed to realize their objectives and instead have only reaped humiliation and disgrace.

All the world's devils—the imperialists and colonialists—have realized that the sun of right is shining in the Arab sky and that a brandished sword is rising high again heralding a new Arab dawn the sun of which will not set. Praise be always to God for the grace of victory which he bestowed on his sincere worshipers. Here your dignified people are strongly and proudly rallying behind their victorious leader.

The next generations will remember that an age in which Saddam Husayn has lived is the master of ages. Praise be to God that we have been with you following your confident steps, fighting under your flag, and benefiting from your wisdom.

Mr. triumphant leader, the coming days will witness the glory and pride that include the most sublime meanings of pride and glory of your sincere people and militant nation. The eyes of the Arab generations are looking to you with hope and optimism, O you the spring of their future and bright tomorrow.

We pledge Mr. leader, as faithful men, to always defend the homeland and the sublime values, and to take you as a model and example of dignity, heroism, and bright and creative thought, inspiring determination and courage from you. We also pledge to remain soldiers who are faithful to the sublime values that you have planted in our hearts and consciences, and that dedication will be our main concern on the road of pride and strength. May God preserve you, O beloved leader, and may God's peace and blessing be upon you.

[Signed] Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, prime minister and member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]

Vice President Greets Saddam

JN2904184692 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 27 Apr 92 p 2

["Text" of cable from Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan to President Saddam Husayn on his birthday—date and place not given]

[Text] Your Excellency Honorable President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect you:

On your excellency's blessed birthday it is a pleasure and an honor to extend to Your Excellency best wishes and congratulations. I beseech God Almighty to grant you abounding health, happiness, and prosperity, to give you long life, to bestow upon you His care and support, and to lead your steps toward all that He loves and condones and all that meets the aspirations and hopes of our great Iraqi people and the sons of our glorious Arab nation.

Brother, comrade, and leader,

When the Iraqis celebrate and light the candles of happiness in a display of their joy on the birthday of their beloved leader, struggler Comrade Saddam Husayn, this should be a lesson for those who understand, because this is how your comrades and children express the extent of their love, pride, and adherence to their heroic leader, loving father, and brave symbol.

On this cherished Iraqi occasion manifestations of joy and celebrations are seen everywhere—in homes, kindergartens, schools, farms, and departments. This means that the Iraqis consider Saddam Husayn's birthday to be their own birthday, for they view his occasion as a new Iraqi and Arab dawn and the beginning of numerous victories, gains, and accomplishments under their beloved leader's brave and wise leadership.

Mr. President, leader and symbol,

History prides itself when it records what you have done for the sake of great Iraq. You have elevated its edifices and brought happiness to its people throughout the years of your immortal life. You have dedicated your life to jihad, the cause of God and truth for defeating falsehood, spreading justice, freedom, enlightenment, and knowledge, and for removing injustice and darkness. Through such abounding altruism leader Saddam Husayn has become an example for revolutionary leaders anywhere and anytime and a symbol for the mujahid heads of state struggling for the sake of their peoples' prosperity, independence, and progress. Saddam Husayn has become a name loved in all Arab cities. His stands, victories, and valor have become examples to be emulated throughout the world.

Mr. Leader President,

Your Excellency's birthday is a day for the entire Iraqi people. It is the foundation of all happy occasions that

your Iraqi children are enjoying. Thus, it is only natural for them to celebrate this happy day and to gouge out the eyes of the cowardly and rancorous who have been worried by this sincere love, renewed loyalty, and adherence to their leader and symbol, Saddam Husayn.

May God preserve you, Mr. President. May He support you and grant you victory over the unjust aggressors. May He guide your steps toward well being and success. Congratulations to the people of great Iraq on this blessed occasion.

Many happy returns.

May God preserve and protect you.

Peace and the blessings of God be upon you.

[Signed] Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan

Defense Minister Wishes Saddam 'Long Life'

JN3004082692 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Apr 92

["Text" of cable of congratulations from Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, RCC member and defense minister, to President Saddam Husayn on his birthday; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O ye who believe! If ye will aid the cause of God, He will aid you and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verse]

Your Excellency Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq and commander in chief of the armed forces, may God protect you.

In continuation of the celebrations of our struggling people on the anniversary of our militant party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and on the fourth anniversary of the liberation of the city of sacrifice and the gate of the great victory, the steadfast al-Faw, we celebrate on 28 April, the month of goodness and giving, your birthday, my lord, the great leader and president. On this occasion, which is dear to the hearts of the honorable Iraqis and genuine Arabs, I extend to you—in my own name and on behalf of your valiant men in our brave Army—the most heartfelt congratulations on your blessed birthday.

Sir, the leader president and dear comrade:

Each year 28 April is not an ordinary day for the Iraqis and the Arabs. This day represents a turning point in our contemporary Arab history because it is really the birth of genuine Arab thinking, the brave and revolutionary man, the courageous knight, and the leader of the victorious march which, from the proud land of Iraq, embarked on building a shining future for the Arab nation so that it will restore its prominent position among nations and rejuvenate its shining cultural role.

On your birthday the leader of the genuine Arab revolution was born. He safeguarded principles, defended the nation's honor, dignity, and pride, and planted in the souls of the Arabs the sublime and great values inherited from our great forefathers.

Sir, the great leader president, may God preserve you. I pledge to you—in my own name and on behalf of our valiant men in the brave Iraqi Army—to remain at your disposal and ready for martyrdom to defend the sublime and lofty values to which we will remain faithful to the last drop of blood. We pledge to continue to champion justice and its owners, O leader of the mujahidin, who embodies the most sublime values of struggle and jihad.

May God grant you success and long life to continue your leadership of our victorious march, which has become the symbol of pride for all strugglers and honorable men in the world.

I beseech God Almighty to preserve you as an asset for the great people of Iraq and our glorious Arab nation.

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, RCC member and defense minister

Interior Minister—'Sublime' Congratulations

JN3004095092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1605 GMT 26 Apr 92

["Text" of cable of congratulations from Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan to President Saddam Husayn on his birthday; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] To the pride of the Arabs, the builder of their prosperity, and the symbol of their might, mujahid leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him:

With overwhelming joy and heartfelt happiness, we welcome your birthday and celebrate this dear occasion while we are proud of our glorious march. We celebrate your blessed birthday standing proud and dignified and attaining, under your courageous leadership, a splendid victory. The march of jihad and construction is proceeding without retreat, defying the will of the forces of the sinful 30-state aggression, which was led by the United States, the enemy of peoples.

Sir, the leader president, thanks to your great and heroic stands and your bravery, wisdom, patience, and jihad, great Iraq managed to hold out like a strong mountain in the face of the most powerful world powers, whose leaders' minds are still obsessed by the black colonialist ideas through which they want to monopolize nations' resources and wealth. These world powers are desperately trying to turn our strong strong pride into hateful humiliation, which is unacceptable to our genuine values and valiant souls. But they can never obliterate Iraq's bright sun. No force on earth can block out Iraq's sunshine because it is a firebrand of God's light.

Sir, the victorious leader president, your birthday is not only a special day, it has also become a source of sublime pride and solid will for nations' rebelling against colonialism and its agents. Your birthday, sir, has become the source of new happy occasions and a symbol of goodness, giving, joy, and bright smiles on the faces of all—young and old.

We are proud of your birthday and glorify it in front of the world by saying: It is pride enough that we are living in leader Saddam Husayn's age, the age of heroism and sublime national and pan-Arab principles and the age of values derived from the great heritage and developing thought that looks forward to a prosperous future.

Sir, the struggling leader, with all joy, happiness, and pride I extend to Your Excellency—in my own name and on behalf of those affiliated with the Ministry of Interior and all the internal security force organs, the men of the internal front who are concerned about the people's security and safety—the most sublime and heartfelt congratulations on your birthday. We beseech God Almighty to grant you long life and victory so that the march will continue under your courageous leadership on the path of jihad and construction, the path of dignity, loftiness, and might to serve our dear homeland and glorious nation, to attain honorable, epic-like achievements, to defeat the enemies, and to abort their unjust blockade.

May God grant you victory and support your steps, as He is the most high and all powerful.

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan

RCC Vice Chairman Sends Message

JN2904185792 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 27 Apr 92 pp 1, 9

["Text" of cable of congratulations from RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim to President Saddam Husayn on his birthday—date and place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. So hold thou fast to the revelation sent down to thee: Verily thou art on a straight way. The Koran is indeed a reminder for thee and for thy people; and soon shall ye all be brought to account. God says the truth. [Koranic verse]

Your Excellency President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve you, it pleases me on this great historic day for great Iraq, your blessed birthday, to extend to your excellency the most heartfelt congratulations. I sincerely beseech God Almighty to celebrate this occasion while you and our faithful people are proud and strong and enjoy God's support. May God grant you victory in your struggle against your enemy to safeguard the nation's dignity and build its prosperous future.

Your birthday has become a day of overwhelming delight for all the sons of the Tigris and Euphrates, during which they light the torches of happiness and delight on every plain, mountain, hill, and valley, expressing their cohesion and rallying around their great leader who safeguarded Iraq and the nation's history as a sacred approach. You are the righteous son, the genius leader, and the faithful successor who carried and upheld this great nation's message to attract to it all good people, to be raised by the mujahidin, and to be protected by all the good sons of the Arab nation.

When the Iraqis become delighted with this blessed day, from the northern part of the homeland to its southern part, and from its eastern part to its western part, they reiterate their commitment to and faith in the march of jihad which was launched by the Arab Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, and his faithful companions, to bravely confront the oppressors, repulse the reckless, and destroy the evil intentions of those who are lying in wait for the nation and the homeland.

Mr. leader President: By your mighty resoluteness, great wisdom, and bright course of life all the Iraqis become brandished swords in the face of the enemies, strong arms to build, and pens to write glory with the ink of scientists and the blood of martyrs so that this honorable homeland and its great leader will continue to be a lighthouse in this disturbed world and the pearl of the Arab world to attract the faithful and to satisfy the good. We will without a doubt help our messengers and those who believe, both in this world's life and on the day when the witnesses will stand forth. [Koranic verse]

Finally, I congratulate you, my dear comrade, and all the Iraqis and the good sons of this nation on this dear occasion. I beseech God Almighty to protect you and give you long life. I hope that this occasion comes again while our faithful people are more delighted and enjoy honorable life. God hears and knows all things.

May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim

RCC Member Ma'ruf Cables Praise

JN2904181192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Apr 92

["Text" of cable of congratulations from RCC member Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf to President Saddam Husayn on his birthday; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Honorable leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, president of the Republic and commander in chief of the armed forces:

On the anniversary of your glorious birthday, which falls on the 28th of blessed April, I am glad to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Your Excellency, beseeching

Almighty God to preserve you and guide your steps on the path of goodness and strength.

Your birth anniversary, Your Excellency the president, is dear to the hearts of the people, who have believed in your historic leadership since the dawn of the eternal 17-30 July Revolution. That leadership played a basic role in safeguarding the march of the revolution, leading it practically and as a whole, and entrenching its pillars and correcting its progressive, national, and pan-Arab identity.

The hearty relationship between you and the sons of the Iraqi people is mainly due to your love for the people and your sacrifice to enhance great Iraq's position and the nation's strength. Therefore, you are the real leader of all classes and social factions of the people. May God preserve you for Iraq, a historic leader and a symbol of struggle, jihad, and steadfastness in the face of aggression regardless of its source. May God grant you victory, as He is the best supporter.

[Signed] Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf, RCC member and vice president

'Kurdish Dignitaries' Extol Saddam's Role

JN2904135292 Baghdad INA in English 1238 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, Apr 29, INA—Several Kurdish dignitaries in the northern autonomy rule area highly extolled the leading role of President Saddam Husayn in establishing the united Iraqi state.

In statements to the Baghdad newspaper AL-'IRAQ published today, the Kurdish dignitaries were unanimous on the important and prominent role of President Husayn in preserving Iraq's sovereignty and independence and confronting all imperialist and chauvinist onslaught which are after disrupting Iraq's unity and dignity.

Speaker of Legislative Council of the Autonomy Rule Area Baha' al-Din Ahmad said Kurdish masses in the northern area harbour great love and allegiance to President Husayn and view his excellency as the leader who will realize the aspirations of our Kurdish people and pave the way for salvage against the imerialist conspiracies.

The Kurdish dignitary further said that Kurdish masses in north Iraq are aware that President Husayn is the one who had realized for them the gains and the 11th March manifesto and other accomplishments along the path of improving their living and social conditions.

The Legislative Council speaker pledged in the name of Kurdish masses to remain the safe defender of the aspirations of the entire Iraqi homeland under the leadership of President Husayn.

Speaker of the Executive Council of the Kurdistan Autonomy Rule Area said that the Kurdish people know that President Saddam Husayn is the symbol of their dignity and they are ready for sacrifice and defending the homeland against the plots of traitors and agents. He added that the day of saving the area from those agents and traitors, slaves of America and Zionism is near.

Other Kurdish dignitaries stressed in their statements that the Kurdish people would remain faithful and the swords for fighting all enemies and traitors and until expelling and destroying them.

Reportage on Clashes in Southern Marshlands

Two Helicopters Said Downed

NC2904152992 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1322 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] With the help of the Almighty, a group of the Islamic revolution mujahidin succeeded in downing a Gazelle helicopter which was flying over [place-name indistinct] on 21 April. The helicopter was seen [words indistinct] while it was heading for Abu-'Ijl Airport in Qal'at Tahir.

The Islamic revolution mujahidin on the same day launched a surprise attack against Saddam's defeated troops in [place-name indistinct] to break the siege imposed on our people there. Many of the tyrant's men were killed in the attack, and the Saddamist [word indistinct] were forced to retreat 500 meters, leaving behind large amounts of military equipment.

Our mujahidin have also succeeded in downing a (?24-M) helicopter which was seen falling into the marshland waters.

Opposition Inflicts 'Heavy Losses'

NC2904155892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] A source in the Iraqi opposition has affirmed that the forces of the repudiated regime continued to attack civilians in the marshlands yesterday and that the popular forces confronted the regime's forces in a number of areas in the south, inflicting heavy losses on them.

The source said that the tyrant's regime continues to impose a reign of terror on the city of al-'Amarah, besiege the areas near the marshlands—especially the towns of al-Kahla' and (al-Mashrah)—surround and search houses in these areas, and arrest many civilians.

Regime Shells Positions in Kurdish North

NC2904182392 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] The dictatorial forces' artillery for two hours yesterday shelled the peshmerga forces' positions in the villages of Dalo, (Rahimah Kuta), and (Klaw Kut) in the (Shawan) area of Karkuk Governorate.

The artillery of the peshmerga's 6th unit in Karkuk retaliated by shelling the enemy's positions in (Shumar) and the (Qasar) plains at 0530, destroying one position and killing five soldiers.

Meanwhile, the dictatorial forces' artillery yesterday shelled the peshmerga centers in (Nazul) District and the surrounding areas for nine hours. These forces resumed their shelling of this area for five hours today.

Ramadam Expresses Solidarity to Libyan Delegation

JN2904171392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice president, has received the fraternal Libyan delegation taking part in the first meeting of the General Secretariat of the Arab Popular Forces Conference [APFC]. During the meeting the Libyan delegation conveyed Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's greetings to his brother President Saddam Husayn and extended congratulations on his excellency's birthday. They also emphasized that the Libyan people are taking pride in the Iraqi people's steadfastness in the face of the nation's enemies.

Ramadan then asked the Libyan delegation to convey leader President Saddam Husayn's greetings to his brother Libyan President Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and he emphasized the solidarity of Iraq—its leaders and people—with the Libyan people, who are facing imperialist threats and the unjust resolutions against Libya. He asserted that the great goals of freedom, sovereignty, and progress require great sacrifices, pointing out that the Arab masses are with the revolutionary leaders, who are defending the Arabs' dignity, existence, progress, and independence.

The members of the Libyan delegation stressed that the Iraqis' steadfastness and their great achievements in reconstruction are an additional strength for the free Arabs inside and outside the Arab arena. The meeting was attended by APFC Secretary General Sa'd Qasim Hammudi.

Paper Criticizes 'False Arab Solidarity'

JN3004100592 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has called for moves to group the Arab countries that are ruled by nationalist, independent regimes into one bloc to counter the subversive acts of the regimes of treason and collusion.

In an article appearing today under the headline "False Arab Solidarity and the Needed Practical Response," the paper says that assembling the Arab countries governed by nationalist, independent regimes into a unified framework would produce "a homogeneous force." This force can lay the foundations of genuine joint Arab action on all political, economic, social, and cultural levels and act as a pressure bloc in the Arab League Council to counter the subversive acts of the regimes of treason and collusion and prevent these regimes from placing the Arab League at the disposal of the U.S. scheme.

The paper refers to leaked reports that the Arab League Council, which is now convened in Cairo, has rejected Libya's request not to observe U.S. sanctions against the Libyan people. This rejection, says the paper, raises many questions as to what "Arab solidarity" or joint Arab action mean at this particular juncture in which the nation is subjected to a comprehensive conspiracy against its present and future—a conspiracy that virtually does not discriminate between one country and another, or one regime and another, except in priorities. The aim is to impose the Atlantic and Zionist hegemony on the Arab peoples from the ocean to the Gulf.

The paper says that the official Arab rejection of the Libyan request arouses disgust and denunciation. It notes the degeneration of some Arab rulers as they blindly follow the ugly American and devote their entire regimes to implementing the conspiratorial scheme and to pressuring the "silent" regimes into taking similar positions that maintain the state of defeatism and capitulation in the Arab world. The official Arab rejection indeed calls once again for reconsidering the usefulness of joint Arab action under this policy, which is based on surrender to the new world order.

The paper emphasizes that a discerning, chronological look at events by any observer will lead him to the obvious conclusion and glaring fact: that the Arab League—and especially its headquarters and General Secretariat, which are hosted by the Mubarak regime—has been turned into an institution that serves the U.S. scheme in one way or another. Stands in the Arab League are offered for sale to the oil-rich Gulf states. This is done under the direct pressure of the Egyptian regime, which plays the role of a Trojan horse in an attempt to undermine genuine Arab solidarity, and which has become Washington's agent in the region.

Information Minister Views Censorship, War Damage

JN2904112592

[Editorial Report] Baghdad BABIL in Arabic on 26 April publishes on page 3 the approximately 2,000-word, "fourth and final part" of an interview with Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi conducted by 'Abbas al-Janabi and 'Abd-al-'Ali al-Banna'. The date and place of the interview are not given.

The information minister explains his ministry's policy on protecting the rights of writers and music composers, on the publication of Iraqi writers' books by the ministry's publishing house, and granting awards to outstanding writers, musicians, and artists.

Asked about book censorship, the minister says that writers submit their books to the ministry, which checks them to ensure that they are "intellectually and morally" acceptable. "If these books are intellectually and morally sound," the minister adds, "we do not object to their publication. If a book does not meet a certain technical level, however, it will not be published under the name

of the Culture and Information Ministry, and the writer will have to publish it through the private sector."

Answering a question on the damage to cultural and media institutions during the "Mother of Battles," the minister says that "19 television transmission stations were damaged in Baghdad, al-Basrah, al-Muthanna, Ninawa, Dhi Qar, al-Anbar, al-Ta'mim, and Maysan Governorates," and "13 radio transmission stations were damaged in Baghdad, al-Sulaymaniyah, al-Anbar, Dhi Qar, Diyala, and Salah al-Din Governorates." The minister further notes that radio and television transmission and production studios were also damaged in Baghdad, Ninawa, and al-Basrah, and that damage was also inflicted on the Palace of Conferences, the Iraqi Museum, and a number of archaeological sites. The minister additionally states that radio and television transmission stations "spared by the hostile bombardment" were sabotaged and looted during the "acts of the chapter of treason and treachery."

Concluding, the minister says that the ministry has repaired and reopened 27 radio and television stations and rebuilt the production and transmission studios in Baghdad, and also completed repair work on museums in various governorates.

Husayn Kamil Hasan Inaugurates Projects

JN2904170992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1513 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 29 Apr (INA)—Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, adviser to the president and supervisor of the Military Industrialization Organization, today inaugurated a thermal station project. This project is being implemented upon the president's orders to promote our national industry and to break the unjust blockade imposed on the Iraqi people. [passage omitted]

Today he also inaugurated a project to expand the State Enterprise for Heavy Engineering Equipment, one of the greatest industrial projects in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Assembly Approves Republic Logo, Seal Changes

JN2904122292 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 27 Apr 92 pp 12, 2

[By Majid al-Lami]

[Excerpts] Baghdad—In a session it held yesterday the National Assembly approved a draft law amending Law No. 85 of 1965 on the Iraqi Republic's [al-Jumhuriyah al-'Iraqiyah] logo and seal.

The amendment stipulates that the phrase "the Republic of Iraq [Jumhuriyat al-'Iraq]" shall replace the term "the Iraqi Republic" mentioned in the title of the aforementioned law, its first article, and its preambles.

The amendment also stipulates that the Republic logo shall be represented by a sketch of an eagle, depicting Salah-al-Din's eagle, standing on a base on which the phrase "The Republic of Iraq" is inscribed in Kufic writing. A shield on which the flag of the Republic of Iraq is engraved shall cover the breast of the eagle. [passage omitted]

[A black and white sketch of the Republic of Iraq logo is printed next to the above newspaper article. The Iraqi flag on the breast of the eagle consists of three equal horizontal rectangles of different shades with three five-pointed stars in a horizontal line centered in the middle rectangle. The phrase Allahu Akbar (God is great)—Allahu to the right of the middle star and Akbar to the left of the middle star—is printed in the middle rectangle.]

MKO Statement Alleges Demonstrations in Iran

JN2904133292 Baghdad INA in English 1258 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Paris, Apr 29, INA—The Iranian opposition organization of Mojahedin-e Khalq [MKO] said that the wave of demonstrations and protests started intensifying throughout Iran over the past few months.

A statement issued by the organization here today said that hundreds of workers at an electronic factory in Tehran staged a strike on 19th instant in protest against the looting carried out by Iranian regime supporters and for raising their low wages. It added that the workers strongly condemned the policies of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government describing them as hostile to the Iranian people.

The statement added that Iranian authorities sent its security men to end the strike for fear of its spread to other factories.

The Mojahedin-e Khalq statement further said that on 17th April instant, owners of shops in Tehran demonstrated in protest against the pressures and injustice exercised on them by the Hashemi-Rafsanjani authorities.

It said that owners of commercial shops in the capital closed the northern Zanjan Street in Tehran with stones and cement and raised placards against the ruling regime.

Afghanistan

Kabul's Fifth Day of Liberation 'Relatively Calm'

LD2904171192 Tehran IRNA in English 1534 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Kabul, April 29, IRNA—Kabul, on its fifth day of liberation is relatively calm with only sporadic gunfire heard from the suburbs. According to the IRNA correspondent the clashes are outside the city.

With the arrival in Kabul Tuesday of the head of the provisional government, Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, and some members of the 50-man council, the situation is gradually becoming peaceful.

Interior Ministry building, the last stronghold of Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami, was captured last night by the mojahedin coalition forces led by Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, which has gained full control over the city.

The situation in the southern and western parts of Kabul is completely normal and people are busy procuring their immediate supplies, which, however, seem to be in short supply.

The central and eastern parts of Kabul controlled by Hekmatyar's forces, wear a deserted look with the market closed and only the Hezb forces present on the streets.

Traffic officers took up positions at the various crossroads and intersections of the Afghan capital since early morning today, and the traffic flow has increased compared with the preceding days.

Offices and government centres are still closed but the employees gathering in front of their offices today to express their readiness to resume work.

The mojahedin controlled radio and television has prepared special programmes, broadcasting epic songs in support of revolutionary forces.

Hekmatyar's party is the only mojahedin faction that has taken up arms against the Islamic transitional government.

Certain other mojahedin groups including the Iran-based Islamic Unity Party, despite their opposition towards the composition of the 50-member council, have, along with the coalition forces, taken up the responsibility of the protection of the city to restore peace and tranquility in the city and support the people.

Mas'ud Forces Take Over Interior Ministry

LD2904124792 Tehran IRNA in English 1153 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Kabul, April 29, IRNA—The Afghan mojahedin forces under the command of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud Tuesday night captured the Interior Ministry in Kabul which was in the hand of the Golboddin Hekmatyar troops since last Saturday.

Five men were killed and more than 20 others wounded during the takeover of the ministry buildings which were considered the last bunker of the Hekmatyar troops.

According to several mojahedin commanders present in the area, more than 100 Hekmatyar troops including two generals of the Communist Army surrendered to the Mas'ud forces and some others fled from the area in the darkness.

The buildings had been damaged by rockets, and most of its belongings had been burned down.

Some 700 of the Hekmatyar troops were surrounded by the mojahedin coalition forces in the buildings since last week, and these forces are now controlling the whole city.

Meanwhile, Hekmatyar forces shelled the Kabul international airport Tuesday night, but no report was available on possible damages and casualties.

Mas'ud Enters Kabul, Meets With Mojaddedi

Defense Minister Nominee

NC2904194392 Paris AFP in English 1931 GMT 29 Apr 92

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] Kabul, April 29 (AFP)—Afghan mojahedin commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud slipped quietly into Kabul Wednesday night at the head of a huge column of 100 tanks, foreign journalists travelling with him said.

The arrival of Mas'ud, one of the powerful rebel commanders in the 14-year-long civil war and the nominee for defense minister, was seen here as a major boost in manpower and morale for the one-day-old mojahedin interim government.

However Mas'ud had issued strict orders, the journalists said, that no advance publicity and no celebrations should greet his arrival in the embattled capital two hours after nightfall.

Mas'ud, accompanied by top aides in 10 jeeps, drove straight to Kabul's garrison headquarters, leaving most of his heavy armor which he had brought from Bagram Airbase, 40 kilometers (25 miles) north of Kabul, at the perimeter to defend the capital against the troops of rival mojahedin commander Golboddin Hekmatyar.

State television was off the air because of a total power failure in Kabul, and few people knew of his entry to the city.

Mas'ud has been nominated defense minister in the six-member coalition council that held the capital since

interim president Sebghatollah Mojaddedi's triumphant arrival from Pakistan Tuesday.

Mojaddedi, Mas'ud Discuss Security

LD3004092192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 0830 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Esteemed Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan [ISA], received esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, minister of defense of the ISA and chairman of the Security Commission of Kabul, in his office this afternoon.

The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent reported that at this meeting esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud presented a report about the military situation in the country. He gave an assurance to the president of the ISA and [word indistinct] not to spare any effort for the restoration of security.

At the end of the meeting esteemed Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, minister of defense and chairman of the Security Commission of Kabul, said the following in answering a question by the BAKHTAR correspondent:

Security has been improved in the city and the agitating forces have been driven back.

A spokesman of the ISA Presidency told the BAKHTAR correspondent that a number of mojahedin also arrived in Kabul together with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud to assist other mojahedin and armed forces in the restoration of security in Kabul city. There is now no need for fear in Kabul city and the people can continue their daily life with peace of mind.

Hekmatyar 'Shut Out' of Government

BK3004080992 Hong Kong AFP in English 0801 GMT 30 Apr 92

[By Anil Penna and Kate Webb]

[Text] Kabul, April 30 (AFP)—Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the northern mojahedin commander, met with interim government leader Sebghatollah Mojaddedi here Thursday [29 April] amid indications that the new regime was to shut out rival commander Golboddin Hekmatyar.

Mas'ud, who entered Kabul from the northern air base of Baghram after nightfall Wednesday with some 100 tanks, held an early morning meeting with Mojaddedi, his officers outside the prime minister's office told AFP.

Afghanistan's Islamic Interim Council was due to meet later Thursday to discuss a role for radical fundamentalist Hekmatyar, but an official in Mojaddedi's secretariat indicated that the council had virtually closed the door on him.

"It is for the council to decide, but I think there is no more chance for Mr. Hekmatyar to enter the council," said Assem Akram, advisor in the Foreign Relations Department.

"He did not take advantage of the chance of prime ministership offered to him. He wanted to fight," Akram told journalists.

Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami and Mas'ud's Jam'iyat-e Eslami have been vying for control of Kabul in bitter fighting since Sunday.

(In Peshawar, Pakistan, where most of the mojahedin political leaders are based, there was anxiety over developments in Kabul and growing criticism of Mojaddedi, reliable sources said.

(They fear that Mojaddedi may act alone, without consulting them, and some even said he may form a coalition with members of the deposed communist regime.

(The leaders were meeting Thursday and planned further talks Friday, focusing on when and how they were to move to Kabul.)

Akram said about 35 members of the 51-member interim council had arrived in Kabul for Thursday's meeting, which was due also to discuss the formation of a Cabinet.

Hekmatyar has nominated Ostad Farid, one of his commanders, for the post of prime minister but Akram said he thought the "situation is different" now.

Mas'ud, designated defence minister, arrived here with troop reinforcements for Kabul's protection, Akram said.

He said Hekmatyar's guerrillas were no longer in a position to fight in Kabul, adding they had been pushed some 20 kilometres (12 miles) south of the city.

"There is no more fear for Kabul," the official said, as occasional gunfire crackled in the barren hillsides.

"There can be no more attacks, maybe some shelling in distant places," he said.

The capital had been cleared of "98 percent" of Hekmatyar fighters, and the Interim Council was trying to get the situation back to normal in the embattled capital, he added.

His remarks came minutes after Mas'ud met Mojaddedi to discuss the military situation in the country.

Meanwhile diplomats here confirmed that rockets fired Wednesday by Hekmatyar had damaged the control tower at Kabul airport.

The diplomats said at least two officers had been killed in the rocketting which coincided with the visit here of Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

On the southern approaches to the city, where rows of once elegant 19th century shops have been reduced to rubble, traumatised residents, children in tow and babies in arms, streamed towards the city center.

The southern edge of the city, where Hekmatyar's troops were trying to push into the capital, has taken the brunt of the fighting, including bombing by government MiG 21s.

At the edge of the road leading southeast to the Pakistan border, tiny mini buses laden with refugees set off for the frontier, despite reports of fighting along the road.

Near the foreign, planning and education ministries, civil servants in suits and ties walked warily past tanks laden with bearded mojahedin, answering calls broadcast by Kabul Radio to return to work.

Electricity throughout the city was cut Tuesday night, leaving residents with no power and no means to cook apart from wood.

Most embassies had generators, but overworked hospitals were using theirs only to help in surgery on scores of wounded, most from the south of the city.

"There are so many," said a Red Cross worker, who earlier had been giving figures for daily admissions, "and so many dead."

In the Indira Gandhi children's hospital, food was short and surgeons had run out of sutures, witnesses said.

Mas'ud: Amnesty Should Include Najibollah

BK3004041992 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] The Afghan defense minister in the interim council, Mr. Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, said that amnesty offered to the deposed government should include the former president, Dr. Najib. Mr. Mas'ud said this soon after his arrival in Kabul last night. He led a column of 100 tanks and several thousand men into the city. Mr. Mas'ud's arrival came soon after a brief visit to the Afghan capital by the Pakistan Prime Minister Mr. Nawaz Sharif.

Reports say fighting in Kabul is now dying down, but there has been extensive looting. The leader of the interim council, Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, says his main task is to ensure security. Iran and Saudi Arabia are the latest countries to recognize the ruling interim council in Afghanistan.

Islamic Movement—Hekmatyar 'Desperate'

LD2904163992 Tehran IRNA in English 1543 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Herat, April 29, IRNA—Commander of Afghanistan's Islamic Movement (Harakat-e Eslami), Mohammad Zaher 'Azimi who is one of the 30 members of the interim council ruling this western province, described the efforts made by Golboddin Hekmatyar to set up a nationalist government in the country as "desperate".

He accused Hekmatyar's party of being a "propagandist and hegemonist" organization and said "according to reliable information that's why his friends abandoned him."

He reiterated that the Ettehad-e Eslami (Islamic Unity) Party—the Parcham and Khalq wings—support Hekmatyar in line with an "arrogant conspiracy" to create tension among rival factions in Afghanistan.

Stressing the need to control the country by mojahedin during the transitional period, he said the Islamic Movement favours a referendum in Afghanistan to establish a fully Islamic government and later form a constituent assembly consisting of authorities and intellectuals to work on composition of the constitution.

He termed the economic status of the country "critical" and claimed that the country has not a single dollar deposit in any international bank.

He said the country needs reconstruction after 14 years of destruction by the former communist regime and called on the international forums to help repatriation of the Afghan people.

He appealed to Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran to help them in reconstruction of their country.

Hekmatyar's Group To 'Cooperate' on Normalization

BK2904153892 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Engineer Qotboddin Helal, Hezb-e Eslami chief Golboddin Hekmatyar's deputy, has reaffirmed his group's resolve to cooperate with other Afghan organizations to normalize the situation in Afghanistan. In an interview with a Radio Pakistan's special correspondent in Peshawar today, he said Hezb-e Eslami favors deeper fraternal ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan. He said that, at this critical juncture in Afghanistan's history, they will require Pakistan's assistance in rehabilitating their (?shattered) economy.

Two Close Najibollah Aides Arrested in Kabul

BK2904153492 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 29 Apr 92 p 8

[Text] Two close associates of the deposed Afghan President Najibollah were arrested by the country's Ministry of Defense, a source said on Tuesday.

Gen. Juma Asak and Commander Jabar were arrested on Monday [27 April] in Kabul, the source added. The source further said that both of them were helping Hekmatyar to continue war against the new government in Kabul.

Juma, during Najib era, was Gen. Commander of northern command of at the Afghan militia.

When FP [Frontier Post] contacted the Hezb official here for confirmation or otherwise of the report, he said, "We have no business to confirm or deny the story."

Mojaddedi Receives Pakistan's Nawaz Sharif

Greets Sharif on Arrival

LD2904163192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] His Excellency Nawaz Sharif, the prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, arrived in Kabul this afternoon at the head of a high ranking delegation. Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, president of the Transitional Islamic Council and the embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, a number of ambassadors and charge d'affaires of some foreign countries, including Seyyed Feda Yunes, charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, received His Excellency Nawaz Sharif and accompanying delegation at Kabul airport.

The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent reported to us that Nawaz Sharif and his accompanying delegation accepted the salute of the guard of honor of the National Guard of the Islamic State of Afghanistan and were welcomed by Esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi. The high-ranking delegation includes [Saudi envoy] Prince Turki al-Faysal; Asif Nawaz, chief of Army Staff of Pakistan; Siddique Khan Kanjoo, minister of state in the Foreign Office of Pakistan; Abdul Sattar Lalika, minister of information; Mawlana 'Abdol Sattar Niyazi, minister of religious affairs; and General Javed Naser, head of ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence] of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Sharif Departs After Talks

LD2904182692 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1600 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, president of the transitional Jehad Council of Afghanistan, met this evening with His Excellency Nawaz Sharif, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and his accompanying delegation, in the prime minister's palace.

During the meeting, esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi welcomed the prime minister and the high-ranking delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Afghanistan. He expressed gratitude for the fraternal assistance and good neighborliness of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and called for strengthening and expansion of further fraternal and friendly relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

In return, Nawaz Sharif congratulated esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi on his appointment as head of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and on the victory of the Afghan people's jehad. He wished from Almighty God their success in ensuring peace in Afghanistan and the reconstruction of the country. Nawaz Sharif handed to esteemed Professor Hazrat Mojaddedi a check for 250,000,000 Pakistani rupees and a document for 5,000 tonnes of wheat donated by the Government of Pakistan to the Muslim people of Afghanistan, which was received with thanks.

Similarly, during this meeting, Prince Turki al-Faysal, representative of the government of Saudi Arabia, congratulated the people of Afghanistan on the success of their jehad and pledged cooperation with the Islamic State of Afghanistan. During this meeting, both sides held talks and exchanged views on subjects of mutual interest.

Later, esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi and Nawaz Sharif, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, took part in a news conference and replied to questions from journalists. According to another report, esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi and His Excellency Nawaz Sharif, and his accompanying delegation, performed evening prayers in Wazir Akbar Khan mosque, praying for peace and the prosperity of the people of Afghanistan.

A BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent reports that His Excellency Nawaz Sharif, and his accompanying delegation, returned to their country this evening. At Kabul international airport, Nawaz Sharif and his accompanying delegation was seen off by esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, head of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, members of the transitional jehad council of Afghanistan, and the charge d'affaires of the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul.

Mojaddedi Addresses Diplomats, Envoys in Kabul

LD2904212492 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Esteemed Professor Hazrat [honorific title] Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, head of the interim jehad council of Afghanistan this morning received in a courtesy call ambassadors, charges d'affaires, and representatives of diplomatic establishments residing in Kabul.

During the meeting, which was attended by a number of domestic and foreign correspondents, Esteemed Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi said: I am very pleased that I am in Kabul after a long time. As you know our policy is the continuation of good relations with all free countries in the world and in particular those countries who have helped us in our 13 or 14 year-long struggle against a superpower. The United Nations had a great role in our struggle. In all resolutions of the United Nations, the Soviet Union was condemned and the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan was demanded. We also look with appreciation at all efforts of the UN secretary general and his envoy, Benon Sevan, who have shuttled between Kabul, Moscow, Pakistan, Iran, and the United Nations to maintain a peaceful solution to the question of Afghanistan.

We praise the efforts of our neighboring countries, in particular Pakistan and the people of Pakistan and the government of that country who have received nearly three million Afghan refugees, all of whom could travel to all parts of Pakistan without getting any official permission. Pakistan has also helped us (?militarily), politically, and in a humanitarian fashion. Also the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a neighboring country, has accepted more than two and a half million of our people as refugees, who have been treated kindly. Iran has consistently helped us in political and humanitarian areas. This country has been the source of important assistance with the people of Afghanistan. We will never forget this. Also King Fahd, the Saudi Arabian king, has supported us at all times, and his was the first country that officially recognized our Interim Government [formed in Pakistan in February 1989]. We appreciate this position. Also the Islamic Republic of Egypt, other free countries in the world, the EC countries, the United States, and all free countries [words indistinct] have totally supported our 13 years of struggle. We hope to expand our relations with all free countries and in particular with [words indistinct] countries.

You know that the 13-year struggle in Afghanistan, as it was been claimed, was not started by us. It was imposed on us. [words indistinct] We are greatful to God almighty and strongly believe that the only superpower is God almighty. God almighty gave us the strength to continue this struggle for 13 or 14 years.

I recall that in 1978 when I was in the Islamic Cultural Mosque in Copenhagen and wished to come to Pakistan to start my struggle against a superpower and against a puppet regime, many people were laughing saying that you do not have even one gun to start your struggle, how would it be possible to continue this struggle? My reply was that I believe in Almighty God, and that He is the only superpower. We began the struggle, and after one year the free world showed interest in our cause.

I had the honor of declaring a general struggle in Afghanistan in defense of our country. Later, Pakistan, Iran, and many other countries supported us. With the protection from the Almighty and the support from these countries we were able to continue our struggle during these 13 years. The number of widows, orphans, and disabled now reaches hundreds of thousands. However, our aim was to reach our sacred objective—the creation of a country with an Islamic government, ensuring justice, freedom, and equality in our country. Islamic social justice ought to be implemented in this country—a country that has its own history, and in this history has the great honor of not surrendering to any power except that of Almighty God.

In the meantime, we are very grateful to those countries who have helped us. We expect all countries to keep their good relations with our people and government. We will not allow any country or any government to interfere in our internal affairs. On our part we too will not interfere in the internal affairs of another country. We are also happy that other countries have achieved their objectives and are free now, especially the former Soviet republics sharing common borders with us. We are grateful to Almighty God that they have been given the honor of freedom.

We know that now is not the time for killing, persecution, and [word indistinct] of people. Now is the time for friendship and brotherhood. Now is the the time of peaceful coexistence. We can live with different ideologies, religions, and [word indistinct]. Because, we are the offspring of one father and one mother—Adam and Eve.

Your Excellencies, forgive me that at this time when power has been transferred to me and to my colleagues there are plenty of problems. It is natural that in every country some extremes and hostilities occur, which you, as our friends and guests, have been saddened by. We ask your forgiveness for that, we are sorry because we did not want such things to occur. But it is a natural thing everywhere. In every place where there is no discipline and people come from all sides, you know that some seditionists created problems. Perhaps they thought Mojaddedi, like before, will not be able to reach Kabul. However, God willing, we will reach our goals. These seditionists naturally would create some problems. However, I have issued a series of instructions that all organizations, embassies, and diplomatic representations [words indistinct]. And we are making every effort to maintain peace and security for our compatriots and also in our country and city.

We will meet in the future again. I am very grateful to you for listening to me with all patience.

Then the Korean ambassador and deputy doyen, on behalf of the others, congratulated Esteemed Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi on the establishment of the Islamic state and his chairmanship of the interim Islamic council, wishing him success in carrying out his great tasks in these hard and sensitive moments of Afghanistan, and expressing a desire to cooperate with the interim Islamic council.

Government Names Ambassador to Pakistan

BK2904161992 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 29 Apr 92 p 1

[Text] The Afghan mojahedin interim government has nominated Mohammad Siddiq Saljouki, a former diplomat in the United States, as ambassador to Pakistan, sources here said Tuesday.

It was the first diplomatic appointment made by the government, which assumed power in Kabul earlier in the day. "I am very happy to serve in a country which I love," Saljouki said. He said he would leave for Islamabad today for consultations with Pakistani Foreign Ministry officials to set up office in the Afghan Embassy.

Saljouki, 65, adviser to moderate mojahedin leader Seyyed Ahmad Gilani, served as Afghan counsellor in

the United States for two years before his return in 1978 to become director-general in the Foreign Ministry.

Saljouki fled to the United States when president Sardar Daud was toppled and killed in the 1978 communist coup in Kabul.

He came to Pakistan in 1983 and has since been living here as a refugee.

Government Issues Statements, Makes Appointment

Statement on Return of State Property

LD2904131792 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1130 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Statement issued on 29 April—read by announcer]

[Text] All commanders, mojahedin, and state employees are instructed to surrender immediately to the administration all motor vehicles, property, and funds belonging to the state administration which are in their control or which they possess. Violaters will be dealt with in line with the tenets of Islamic law.

International Communications Functioning

LD3004102192 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 0830 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Announcement issued by the Ministry of Communications—read by announcer]

[Text] Our dear compatriots are informed that all international companies are operating normally and there is no obstacle to international communications.

Firing in Air Discouraged

LD3004102392 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 0830 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Announcement by the Islamic State of Afghanistan on 30 April—read by announcer]

[Text] All commanders and esteemed mojahedin are hereby asked to refrain from firing in the air which causes annoyance and worry to the esteemed citizens. Those who violate this instruction will be dealt with by force of law.

Mojaddedi Receives Messages of Congratulations

Pakistan's Khan Hails Mojahedin Council

LD2904205992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1600 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] The following message of congratulation from His Excellency Ghulam Ishaq Khan, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, addressed to esteemed Professor Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, head of the interim jehad council of Afghanistan, arrived in Kabul today.

I am grateful to God Almighty to express my congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the assumption of power in Kabul of yourself and all the mojahedin council under your leadership. This historic opportunity will be the beginning of an auspicious (?chapter) for peace and progress in Afghanistan. This is a day that all Muslims, especially the brave Afghan brethren, should bow before God Almighty in gratitude for His endless mercy, and should celebrate restoration of the freedom and Islamic identity of Afghanistan.

The mojahedin council, under your wise leadership, has the urgent task of consolidating peace in the country and implementing agreements mutually reached between the mojahedin leadership and the [word indistinct] for national reconciliation and the reconstruction of Afghanistan. I pray for your (?complete success).

[Signed] Ghulam Ishaq Khan, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Turkey's Ozal Greets Mojaddedi

LD2904164292 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1230 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, head of the transitional Islamic council and the embodiment of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, has received a congratulations message from His Excellency Turgut Ozal, president of Turkey. The text follows:

Hazrat Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan:

We have heard with pleasure that the struggle of the people of Afghanistan, which caused great hardship [words indistinct] resulted in success. On my own behalf and that of the people of Turkey, I congratulate you for assuming the presidency of the state of Afghanistan. I hope Afghanistan will quickly achieve peace and that a government, which reflects the large majority of the people of Afghanistan, will be formed. I would like to assure you that Turkey will always stand by the people of Afghanistan in its efforts for unity and reconstruction.

[Signed] Respectfully, Turgut Ozal, president of Turkey

POST Gives Biography of Interim Leader Mojaddedi

BK3004041692 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 29 Apr 92 p 2

[Text] The leader of Afghanistan's new mojahedin government, Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, has always been in conflict with fundamentalist Golboddin Hekmatyar, who is contesting his political authority.

A former theology professor and imam of the mosque in Copenhagen, Mojaddedi, with his small white beard, often has a worried air. Exile has marked the 65-year-old Sunni Muslim.

A member of Afghanistan's majority Pashtuns, he was named president of an Afghan resistance "interim government" immediately following the Soviet military pullout in February 1989.

Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami faction, was his "foreign minister," but stormed out six months later, complaining of the exiled government's "inefficiency" and lack of credibility.

His problems with Hekmatyar and the Hezb appear to be continuing.

As head of the Jabha Nejat-e Melli (National Liberation Front), a small faction with a relatively small presence on the ground, Mojaddedi represents the so called "traditionalist" current of the Afghan guerrilla movement, compared to the more fundamentalist strains represented by the Hezb and the powerful Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's Jam'iyat-e Eslami faction.

At one time, Mojaddedi was backed by monarchists favouring the return to power of former king Zaher Shah. As the descendant of an old family of Sufis, Islamic mystics, which came to Kabul at the end of the 19th century, Mojaddedi enjoyed a certain spiritual and religious authority.

After studying at Cairo's prestigious al-Azhar University he returned to Kabul to teach and joined the Islamic opposition before being arrested in 1959. Then followed exile in Denmark and the execution of several members of his family by the communist Taraki regime in 1979, before the Soviet invasion.

As a key figure in Afghanistan's anticommunist struggle, his exile to Peshawar made him a natural compromise candidate between the various mojahedin factions.

It was his demonstrated moderation that also made Mojaddedi appreciated in Western circles in Pakistan, his home of refuge for 13 years.

What he lacks is a party and electoral machine which could strengthen him against the likely power plays and machinations from his political rivals.

Iran

New Afghan Mojahedin Council Officially Recognized

LD2904151392 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Our country's Foreign Affairs Ministry, in a statement this afternoon, officially recognized the Afghan mojahedin council as the new government during the transitional period. The statement said: While the 14-year struggles of the Muslim and valiant nation of Afghanistan have been praised, and the worthy martyrs of that great nation have been honored, as usual, the Islamic Republic of Iran stresses the need to preserve the Islamic identity, territorial integrity, and the unity of the Muslim people of Afghanistan. Hope is expressed that the new government can bring about the possibility of the participation of all strata of the Afghan nation in returning peace and security and the creation of proper ground for reconstructing that country through safeguarding a fair share and observing the rights of all ethnic and national groups—whether Shiite or Sunni.

Two Planes Deliver Aid to Mazar-e Sharif

LD2904221992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1830 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Two Iranian C-130 planes carrying aid for the people of Afghanistan have arrived in Mazar-e Sharif.

The adviser to the foreign minister and in charge of the special office on aid to Afghanistan, Mr. Najafi, was welcomed by the mojahedin, prominent personalities, and the people of Mazar-e Sharif after his arrival in the city yesterday evening.

Speaking in an interview Mr. Najafi said the purpose of his visit is to continue the Islamic Republic of Iran's aid to the various regions in Afghanistan and to convey the congratulatory messages of the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials and people to the victorious and combatant people of Afghanistan. He stressed the shipment of aid to Afghanistan will continue.

Mr. Najafi also met and held talks with the prominent personalities of Mazar-e Sharif yesterday.

Red Crescent Sends 3rd Aid Consignment to Herat

LD2904191192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] The third consignment of aid dispatched by the Islamic Republic of Iran's Red Crescent Society to Herat was handed over to authorities of Herat province. The consignment contained flour, dates, cereal, potatoes, bread, and diesel oil. According to a report by the correspondent of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Voice and Vision, distribution of the aid, which was welcomed by the Herat inhabitants, created a wave of hope among the people and officials of that city.

Velayati Receives Lebanese Hizballah Leader

Pledges Support for South Lebanon

LD2904174692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati today met and held talks with Seyyed Hasan Nasrallah, secretary general of the Hizballah Revolutionary Movement of Lebanon, and the leadership council of that movement. Nasrallah is currently in Tehran.

At that meeting the latest developments in Lebanon and Palestine were reviewed. Referring to current world

developments, which have brought about greater freedom of action and independence for the world nations, Mr Velayati said: Islamic awakening all over the world has brought about a great and serious development in the world and among the nations. Our country's foreign minister also declared the Islamic Republic of Iran's full support for the heroic struggles of the people of Lebanon in the south of that country and in the Western al-Biqa' against the Zionist regime.

Supports 'Growing Islamic Movements'

LD2904151192 Tehran IRNA in English 1403 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, April 29, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a meeting with Lebanese Hizballah leader Hasan Nasrallah here today, reiterated Iran's full support for the just struggle of the people of south Lebanon and the western al-Biqa'. International developments as well as Lebanon-Palestinian problems were discussed in the meeting.

Velayati considered the universally growing Islamic movements as "encouraging", and described them as "a major and serious development."

Kurdish Leader Talabani on Talks in Tehran

PM2904144292 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Apr 92 pp 1, 4

[Kamran Qurrah Daghi report: "Talabani Meets With Rafsanjani and Tehran for Democratic System in Iraq"]

[Excerpts] London—Jalal Talabani, joint leader of the Kurdistan Front, has said that the Iranian leadership emphasized to him "openly and clearly" that it is not seeking to establish a fundamentalist system in Iraq, that it actually favors a democratic system there, and that it has no ambitions with regard to Iraqi territory.

Before his meeting with Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Thursday night [23 April] he told AL-HAYAH by telephone from the Iranian capital that his economic and trade talks in Tehran were "very successful, and their results will reflect positively on the economic situation in Iraqi Kurdistan."

He said that Tehran emphasized its support for the Kurdish elections which the front is planning to hold on 17 May in north Iraq, where some 1 million Kurdish voters will cast their votes to elect a "national assembly" comprising some 100 members. [passage omitted]

Talabani pointed out that there is an agreement signed between the Patriotic Union [of Kurdistan] and the Democratic Party of Kurdistan led by Mas'ud Barzani, joint leader of the Kurdistan Front, and that this agreement includes a pledge to honor the election results, whatever they may be. [passage omitted]

Rebel Radio Questions Government Arms Purchases

NC2904134192 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Unattributed commentary: "The Islamic Republic's Intensive Efforts To Purchase Arms and War Materiel"]

[Excerpts] Foreign news agencies have recently been running reports on the clerical regime's renewed efforts to purchase arms and war materiel. [passage omitted] Foreign experts say that last year alone, the clerical regime purchased $2 billion worth of arms from foreign countries, mainly from the former Soviet republics, North Korea, China, and Czechoslovakia. This regime recently purchased military equipment and missiles from Ukraine in return for oil and gas. [passage omitted]

The following question arises: Why is the Islamic Republic purchasing all these arms and war materiel? Are there any governments, countries, or forces threatening Iran's independence or intending to attack Iran? Are there any foreign forces intending to use military force to overthrow the Islamic Republic and bring a puppet government to power? [passage omitted]

The Islamic Republic is pursuing two objectives in amassing all these weapons: first, to be able to arm pro-Iranian groups throughout the world to use these groups as a means to achieve its political ends. Part of the regime's foreign policies have always been to pressure other governments with pro-Iranian armed groups. Iran intends to continue its provocations and military acts outside its borders and to arm its mercenary groups in other countries against some governments. It is not surprising in the least that this regime may use arms and military attacks to confront its neighbors. The bombing of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization's bases inside Iraqi territory and the Islamic Republic's allegations against the United Arab Emirates on the Abu Musa Island show that the regime entertains thoughts of expansionism, a dangerous issue to its neighbors.

The second objective behind the Islamic Republic's arms purchases and the strengthening of its armed forces is to crush popular struggles inside the country. From its very outset, the Islamic Republic has been suppressing Iran's revolutionary struggles. In Kordestan, Baluchestan, Torkamansahra, and in any other part of Iran where a revolutionary movement has existed, the regime has used and tested all kinds of weapons.

The regime is not purchasing arms to defend Iran; it is purchasing them to crush forces and movements that demand true independence and a democratic system for their country. At a time when the people of our country are facing hunger, high prices, housing shortages, unemployment, and deprivation from all elementary health and education services and when no one is thinking of occupying our country, what else can all these weapons purchases mean?

Shipping Agreement Reached With Turkmenistan

LD2904200492 Tehran IRNA in English 1723 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Chalus (Mazandaran), April 29, IRNA—With the start of a shipping line between Iran and Turkmenistan, the Iranian shipping companies of Iran-Baseer and Iran-Bashir are expected to carry one million tons of cargo annually from Krasnovodsk to Iranian ports along the Caspian Sea.

Head of commercial shipping at Turkmenistan's port of Krasnovodsk, Aziz Hajiev, told IRNA here today that the two countries have reached agreement on further expansion of shipping ties.

Hajiev who is here to attend the 5-day conference on promotion of maritime cooperation between the Caspian republics of Iran, Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, said his country would welcome an exclusive exhibition of Iranian goods at Krasnovodsk port.

The five participants reached agreement on protection the Caspian environment, navigation, passenger traffic between their respective ports and related issues. The conference wound up today.

Second Round of Election Campaigning Announced

LD2904185492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Excerpt] The state election headquarters announced: For the implementation of Article 56 of the Majles' Elections Act, election campaigning for the second round of the election in 79 out of 82 constituencies, where voting has to take place again, will start from 2400 tonight [1930 GMT] and continue until 24 hours before the polling day—that is 2400 on 29 April. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

Khomeyni on Elections, 'Agents' in Afghanistan

LD2904215692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni met with thousands of teachers and school and university students from the cities of Tehran, Kerman, and Qazvin this evening. The meeting took place on the threshold of Teachers Day [2 May 1992; coinciding with the anniversary of the scholar Ayatollah Morteza Mottahari's death]

During some remarks he said that people should actively participate in the second round of elections of the Majles [due 8 May]. He added: The world is watching the second round of the Majles elections and you should try, vigilantly and with full awareness, to elect persons who are religious, believe in the system, and who are in line with, and follow the honorable leader of the Islamic revolution [Khamene'i]. Only those with the experience of the struggle are the ones who can defend Islamic and revolutionry values and the prestige of the system at the sacred bastion of the Islamic consultative Majles today. He stressed that it is a religious and national imperative for all of us to participate in the second round of elections for the Majles.

In another part of his remarks Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni referred to the complicated situation in Afghanistan and called on all revolutionary Afghan mojahedin to maintain their calm and unite solidly against the conspiracies of the world blasphemy. He noted: Today agents of world blasphemy have placed themselves among the ranks of mojahedin and Afghan revolutionaries and intend to deprive the people, who have struggled for 13 years, from experiencing the sweet taste of victory. They also intend to terrorize and massacre the people, as well as creating civil war and fratricide to realize the objectives of their masters.

He added: To materialize the objectives of their masters, the agents of world blasphemy are trying to push the Islamic country of Afghanistan toward civil war and dismemberment. The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly opposes the deceitful acts of the enemies of Islam and the Muslim people of Afghanistan aimed at the continuation of the civil war and the final dismemberment of that country, and will confront these deceitful acts of the bullying enemies with full force.

Khamene'i Urges Country To Become Self-Sufficient

LD2904202692 Tehran IRNA in English 1331 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Tehran, April 29, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i today called for an effective struggle to make the country free of reliance on foreigners.

Addressing a group of workers and teachers on the eve of Labour Day (May 1) and Teacher Day (May 2), he said ever since the triumph of the revolution "the Islamic Republic of Iran has firmly stood against the enemies of truth and reality. Today's world is a world of struggle, and every nation which does not stand against the world-deavourers will be destroyed."

Ayatollah Khamene'i also hailed the significant role of the Iranian Muslim and devoted workers in foiling the enemies' efforts to stop the wheel of production in the post-revolution years particularly during the imposed war.

The leader dwelt on the importance of education and training in Islam, and said that progress of science and knowledge in a society will result in strengthening the resistance of that society against the enemies.

"During the gloomy days of monarchy in Iran, relations with the outside world meant the display of Iranian

handicrafts in foreign exhibitions and export of oil for foreign factories instead of the exchange of science, knowledge and culture," he recalled.

On the other hand, noted the ayatollah, advocates of cultural links with the West merely copied the morals, fashions, life-style and unhealthy relations of the West.

"Today we believe that only sciences should be acquired from the foreigners, and that their corrupt morals and polluted ways should be eschewed," he said.

The leader once again termed the contemporary era "a world of a clear and tough struggle between big powers and oppressed nations.

"World powers today commit various wrongs and resort to oppression and cruelty, therefore, our people have a heavier duty to struggle against tyranny, injustice, and genocide," he stressed.

'Victory-3' Exercise Continues in Persian Gulf

LD2904172792 Tehran IRNA in English 1537 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Bandar Abbas (Horuzgan), April 29, IRNA—The fifth stage of the "Victory-3" maneuver by the armed forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps now continues at the Persian Gulf.

During war games Wednesday [28 April] Iranian gunboats pounded hypothetical enemy positions aided by fighter bombers, while gunboats brought down propelled airplanes without pilots using surface to air missiles.

The Armed Forces and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps have thus far demonstrated perfect harmony in their operations, excelling all their previous maneuvers.

The "Victory-3" maneuver continues over an area of about 10,000 square miles in the waters of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman on either side of the Hormuz Strait.

Pakistan

Sharif Departs Peshawar for Kabul

BK2904113792 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, left Peshawar for Kabul this afternoon on a short visit at the invitation of the head of the mojahedin council, Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi. He is accompanied by Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting [words indistinct], Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo, and senior (?officials). A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad this afternoon that the prime minister will take advantage of the visit to convey to Prof. Mojaddedi Pakistan's assurances of support and cooperation in the task of [words indistinct] and reconstruction which lies ahead. He said the Pakistan Government has decided to provide 30,000 tons of wheat, in addition to 10,000 tons already announced to meet immediate food requirements of the Afghan brethren. A planeload of medicines [words indistinct].

About the situation in Kabul, he said the Afghan capital was completely under the control of forces loyal to the mojahedin council [words indistinct]. He said the situation in the city is totally peaceful.

Holds Talks With Mojaddedi

BK2904143892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, flew in to Kabul today and held talks with the president of the Afghan Interim Council [AIC], Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi. The federal minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. Abdul Sattar Lalika; the minister for religious affairs, Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi; minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanjoo; and the chief of army staff, General Asif Nawaz were also present during the talks.

On arrival in Kabul the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, was accorded a warm welcome. The prime minister's visit is in response to an invitation of the head of the AIC, Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi. Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi and members of the council welcomed the prime minister, who is the first head of government to visit Kabul following the installation of mojahedin government on Tuesday [28 April].

A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad that the prime minister would hold out to the Afghan authorities Pakistan's assurances for support and cooperation in the task of national reconciliation and reconstruction. The prime minister is accompanied by the special envoy of King Fahd, Prince Turki al- Faysal; some federal ministers; senior officials; and a team of media men.

Sharif Briefs Press

BK2904145692 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] Addressing a news conference in Peshawar this morning, the prime minister said Pakistan will provide every assistance, including food, construction material, and other essential items for speedy reconstruction and rehabilitation of the war-torn Afghanistan. The economy of Afghanistan is in shambles after the 14 years of war in which 1.5 million people were martyred and many were rendered incapacitated. Pakistan will utilize all its resources to rehabilitate Afghanistan and make it stand on its feet again. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said we have established a cell headed by the federal finance minister, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, which will consider as to how we can help Afghanistan's reconstruction in various

fields. As soon as conditions in Afghanistan become normal, official delegations will start visiting the country. This task will be accomplished with the consultations of these delegations, so as to know the priorities of Afghans.

The prime minister said we have prepared a financial package which will be implemented shortly and we will help the Afghans with an open heart. Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said the interim council has taken power in Afghanistan under the leadership of Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi who is in full control of the administration. Heavy issues will be solved with the passage of time. Problems cannot be solved overnight. He said Pakistan was equally associated with sincerity in liberating Afghanistan from the clutches of communism, which died its own death. The entire nation should appreciate Pakistan's successful foreign policy.

Referring to the differences that cropped up after the formation of interim council with one group of mojahedin, the prime minister said these differences were removed when a representative of that party signed an accord with the rest of the mojahedin tanzimat [organizations]. This party, he added, was taken into confidence throughout the process of formation of the interim council. He said the solution of Afghanistan problem is a sufficient proof of the successful foreign policy of the present government. Referring to the criticism of the opposition, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said they should assess and see for themselves how this issue was tackled and how much efforts the government of Pakistan had put out for its amicable solution.

Later, talking to newsmen informally, the prime minister said he had a wireless contact with Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar of Hezb-e Eslami this morning. He said Mr. Golboddin Hekmatyar has assured him that the cease-fire agreement signed on Monday will not be violated. He said a peace committee comprising representatives of different Afghan tanzimat is reviewing the implementation of the cease-fire accord in Kabul today. The prime minister said Pakistan's objective to get Afghanistan liberated has been achieved and now the Afghan people should settle their affairs themselves. He categorically stated that Pakistan believes in noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries.

In reply to a question, he said the liberation of Afghanistan will help promote Pakistan's relations with the Central Asian Republics. He said if Afghanistan made a request for the membership of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, Pakistan will support it. The prime minister said he sees a bright future for Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, Turkey, and the Central Asian republics.

Reiterates Support for Kabul

BK3004102992 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has reassured Afghanistan of all possible help by Pakistan in its speedy development. He said this while addressing a joint news conference with Afghan mojahedin council leader Sebghatollah Mojaddedi in Kabul yesterday. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said all countries should extend their wholehearted support to establish a durable peace in Afghanistan as the Afghan people are in the process of stabilizing their victory. On his talks with Hezb-e Eslami leader Golboddin Hekmatyar, the prime minister said he has agreed to help ensure peace in the country and adhere to the cease-fire agreement reached by the various mojahedin organizations in Kabul.

Addressing the joint news conference, mojahedin council leader Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi thanked President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Prime Minister Sharif and the government and the people of Pakistan for extending all kinds of assistance to the new government of Afghanistan. He said he is particularly grateful to Nawaz Sharif who traveled to Kabul to congratulate him and the people of Afghanistan. Professor Mojaddedi said his priorities include normalizing the situation in every sphere and paying the fullest attention to the country's reconstruction.

Saudi Prince Turki al-Faysal also addressed the news conference and extended greetings to the new government and the people of Afghanistan on this historic victory on behalf of King Fahd and the people of Saudi Arabia.

Earlier, during his meeting with President Mojaddedi, Prime Minister Sharif said as the mojahedin have assumed power, Afghanistan will now be able to play its important and constructive role in the region and the world. He said Pakistan wants to see a united, strong, peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan, which is necessary for the security and prosperity of our region. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif presented Professor Mojaddedi with a check worth 250 million rupees for the reconstruction. The professor thanked Pakistan and Saudi Arabia for extending moral, political and material support to the mojahedin during their struggle. Referring to the presence of the Pakistani premier in Kabul, he said that it is a day of great pleasure for the Afghan people to have the Pakistani leader among them to share their joys. The Saudi king's special envoy, Prince Turki al-Faysal paid tribute to the Afghan people for their sacrifices during the 14 years of struggle and said they have added a golden chapter to Islamic history. He assured them of Saudi Arabia's total support in the reconstruction. The Pakistani prime minister offered his thanksgiving prayers at the grand mosque of the city before he left Kabul for home.

Missiles 'Just' Miss Sharif Plane

BK3004101892 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 30 Apr 92 p 8

[By Sultan Sabir]

[Text] The Pak Air Force C-130 plane carrying prime minister Nawaz Sharif and other VIP members of his

entourage to Kabul survived a missile attack just before landing at Kabul Airport on 29 April Wednesday.

The prime minister's plane arrived at Kabul Airport at 3:55 pm [1055 GMT] after a 65 minute flight. The journalists who reached Kabul Airport before the prime minister's plane landed saw two missiles just missing the C-130 in the air.

At Kabul Airport Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, accompanied by Siddique Kanjoo, minister of state for foreign affairs, Abdul Sattar Lalika, federal information minister, Maulana Abdus Sattar Niazi, federal minister for religious affairs, Lt. Gen. Javed Nasir, chief of ISI [Inter Services Intelligence] and Gen. Asif Nawaz Janjua, chief of the army staff, was welcomed by the head of the Afghan interim council Professor Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, and Wakil Shahbaz, a close associate of Mojaddedi and Yasir, a close aide of Abdur Rab Rasool Sayyaf.

The prime minister was given guard of honor by a contingent of mojahedin belonging to the Mojaddedi party which arrived in Kabul with Mojaddedi the other day.

The absence of Afghan armymen was noticed by the journalists at the airport, as no regular Afghan servicemen or general was present at the airport to receive the visiting delegation.

Later on, the visitors were taken to a single story building at Shahr-Nau Kabul City, the building which was introduced as the prime minister's secretariat. It is pertinent to recall that previously the mojahedin had claimed that they were occupying the presidential palace, and prime minister's [PM] house. But contrary to their claims, the joint press conference of Nawaz Sharif and Mojaddedi was held at the same single-story building.

At the building, Nawaz Sharif and Mojaddedi addressed a joint press conference where Nawaz presented a check of Rs. 250 million. He also announced 50,000 metric tons of wheat, 5,000 tons of which has already reached Sarowbi district in Afghanistan and would be distributed soon.

All the way from Kabul Airport to the PM office no Afghan armymen were visible. Meanwhile, heavy bombing between rival Afghan troops was heard at the two mountains opposite Kabul Airport. Only plain water was served to the visiting journalists, which proves that there was a shortage of entertainments. The toilets of the PM secretariat were dirty and lack of maintenance was obvious.

The road to Kabul Airport was deserted and few pedestrians were seen on the road.

'Goodwill' Wheat, Medicine Sent to Afghanistan

BK2904145092 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 29 Apr 92

[Text] The government of Pakistan has started dispatching relief food as a gesture of goodwill for the people of Afghanistan. A PAF [Pakistan Air Force] aircraft carrying bags of atta [whole wheat flour] in a large quantity left Islamabad for Kabul today. Another consignment of relief goods for the people of Afghanistan was dispatched to Kabul from Peshawar today. Relief goods are being sent to Afghanistan as part of the humanitarian assistance announced by the prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. The relief goods include 450 metric tons of wheat, medicines and other food items. The relief goods are destined for distribution in Nangarhar, the capital Kabul and its surrounding areas.